



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1990

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NATIONALITY PACKAGE AIMED AT INCREASING CONFIDENCE: GOVERNOR

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THE KEY ELEMENT OF THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE IS AIMED PRECISELY AT INCREASING CONFIDENCE, KEEPING PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, AND GIVING PEOPLE THE SENSE OF ASSUREDNESS ABOUT THEIR ABILITY TO SETTLE SOMEWHERE ELSE IF NECESSARY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING WELFARE AGENCIES IN CHUK YUEN, SIR DAVID SAID THE HOPE WAS THAT THOSE PEOPLE WOULD REMAIN IN HONG KONG AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE TERRITORY.

"I HOPE THE PACKAGE WILL GO THROUGH PARLIAMENT, DESPITE OPPOSITION. WE ALL KNOW THAT THERE IS OPPOSITION WITHIN PARLIAMENT," HE SAID.

"I HOPE THAT IT WILL GO THROUGH SUCCESSFULLY BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT A SUCCESSFUL PACKAGE WILL HELP, THAT IT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE STABILITY OF HONG KONG; AND THAT IS CERTAINLY WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE WOULD PROBABLY BE ANNOUNCED TO PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK, BEFORE PARLIAMENT GOES INTO RECESS FOR EASTER.

ASKED ABOUT THE VISIT TO HONG KONG NEXT MONTH BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR FRANCIS MAUDE, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE MINISTER'S VISIT WAS TO KEEP HIMSELF UP-TO-DATE WITH WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN HONG KONG.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT THE MINISTER SHOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK TO PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AND PEOPLE HERE SHOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM, HE ADDED.

ASKED ABOUT RECENT PETITIONS BY CIVIL SERVANTS, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED THAT THE FIREMEN'S HUNGER STRIKE HAD ENDED AND THAT MATTERS WERE NOW BACK TO THE NEGOTIATION TABLE.

"THAT IS THE WAY THESE MATTERS SHOULD BE SETTLED. THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAVE AN EXTREMELY GOOD REPUTATION AND I THINK WE WOULD ALL LIKE TO KEEP IT THAT WAY," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS ALWAYS A PROBLEM WHEN THINGS WERE IN AN INFLATIONARY SITUATION WHERE THERE WERE WAGE DEMANDS.

"THE IMPORTANT THING IS IF THERE ARE QUESTIONS TO BE RESOLVED, THEY SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY NEGOTIATIONS AND NOT THROUGH ACTIVITIES WHICH DISRUPT SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AND INCONVENIENCE THE PUBLIC," HE ADDED.

/ASKED IF

ASKED IF THERE WAS THE PROSPECT OF AN AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, SIR DAVID SAID: "THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO QUESTION OF AN AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HERE. WE ARREST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHEN THEY TRY TO COME INTO HONG KONG. WE WOULD SIMILARLY ARREST THEM IF THEY WERE FOUND IN HONG KONG AND WE WOULD SEND THEM BACK TO CHINA."

WHEN ASKED IF HE THOUGHT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SHOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM PARTS OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "THE BILL OF RIGHTS COVERS THE WHOLE OF SOCIETY AND THE WHOLE OF THE GOVERNMENT APPARATUS, AND IT MUST DO."

"THERE CAN'T BE ANY EXCEPTIONS TO THE BILL OF RIGHTS. IT COVERS EVERYTHING AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANISATIONS HAVE TO ADJUST TO THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND ITS PROVISIONS," SIR DAVID SAID.

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GOVT ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO SOCIAL WELFARE: GOVERNOR
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THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO PROVIDING WELFARE SERVICES FOR BOTH YOUNG AND OLD AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID DURING A VISIT TO THREE SUBVENTED VOLUNTARY AGENCIES THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THIS IS WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED ALMOST \$940 MILLION (INCLUDING OVER \$830 MILLION FOR SUBVENTIONS) FOR PROJECTS IN THESE AREAS IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR, HE SAID.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON VISITED A DAY CARE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, A CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE AND A HOSTEL FOR DISCHARGED MENTAL PATIENTS IN WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT.

SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON BEGAN THEIR TOUR WITH A VISIT TO THE CHUK YUEN DAY CARE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY RUN BY THE SALVATION ARMY. THE CENTRE HAS A CAPACITY OF 40 AND PROVIDES MEALS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE IN DECLINING HEALTH.

"ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MAJOR CONCERNS MUST BE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE WELFARE SERVICES FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS.

"WE ARE AN INCREASINGLY AFFLUENT SOCIETY. WE MUST GIVE THE ELDERLY THE CARE, ATTENTION AND SUPPORT THEY DESERVE. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED MAKE HONG KONG WHAT IT IS TODAY," SIR DAVID SAID.

/HE ADDED

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HE ADDED AS AN EXAMPLE THAT ELIGIBILITY FOR NORMAL OLD AGE ALLOWANCE WOULD BE EXTENDED DOWNWARDS TO COVER THOSE WHO ARE 66 YEARS OF AGE AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RATES WOULD ALSO BE INCREASED.

SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON THEN MOVED ON TO THE CHUK YUEN CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE, RUN BY THE CHINESE YMCA WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF OVER 2,600.

"SERVICES FOR THE YOUTH ARE BEING IMPROVED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE 1990'S AND BEYOND. NEW CENTRES AND SERVICES, SUCH AS THE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMME, WILL BE BROUGHT IN AS THE NEED ARISES," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON THEN TOURED THE CHUK YUEN HALF-WAY HOUSE, OPERATED BY THE NEW LIFE PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION.

THE HOSTEL, WITH A CAPACITY OF 40, HELPS RESIDENTS DEVELOP THE SKILLS, WORK HABITS AND DECISION-MAKING ABILITIES WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THEIR INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY.

"RESIDENTS IN THESE HOSTELS NEED THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT IN THEIR LIVES. IT IS UP TO ALL OF US TO PROVIDE THE ENCOURAGEMENT WHICH THEY NEED," SIR DAVID SAID AT THE END OF HIS VISIT.

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HONG KONG OFFERS IMMENSE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENTS CLEARLY PROVIDE IMMENSE OPPORTUNITIES BOTH IN RELATION TO THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SIDE AND FOR THOSE WHO CAN PUT TOGETHER ATTRACTIVE FINANCIAL PACKAGES OR EVEN JOIN IN AS EQUITY PARTNERS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, TODAY (THURSDAY) TOLD A GATHERING AT STATIONERS HALL, LONDON, OF THE ENORMOUS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES THAT THESE PROJECTS AND HONG KONG'S GROWING FINANCIAL AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES WOULD PROVIDE TO OVERSEAS INVESTORS.

"HONG KONG IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE THE GREAT PORT ON CHINA'S SOUTH-EASTERN SEABOARD BECAUSE NATURE MADE IT THAT WAY. A PORT WITH AN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE HINTERLAND DEVELOPS A NUMBER OF CHARACTERISTICS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

"THE PICTURE WHICH IS BEGINNING TO EMERGE IS OF HONG KONG AS THE COMMUNICATIONS, TRADE AND FINANCIAL SERVICE CENTRE FOR AN ECONOMICALLY DYNAMIC SOUTHERN CHINA.

/"IT IS

"IT IS A PICTURE WHICH IS ALREADY ATTRACTING INCREASING NUMBERS OF FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN, BANKERS, AND AN ASSORTMENT OF PROFESSIONALS ENGAGED IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, FOR WHERE TRADERS GATHER, MARKETS ARE MADE," HE SAID.

"WE OPERATE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR ALL OUR INVESTORS, WHEREVER THEY COME FROM," HE SAID, ADDING THAT DEALS WERE MADE WITH THOSE WHO CAME WITH THE BEST OFFERS.

IN HIS SPEECH ON OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG IN THE NEW DECADE, SIR PIERS SAID THAT IN MAKING THE MOST OF SUCH OPPORTUNITIES, BUSINESS ATTITUDE WOULD BE OF ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE.

"WE LIKE PEOPLE TO COME TO HONG KONG AND SELL US THINGS AND MAKE MONEY, BUT WHAT IS ATTRACTIVE TO PEOPLE IN HONG KONG IS INVESTMENT IN THE TERRITORY THAT IN SOME WAYS BECOMES WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF HONG KONG.

"INVEST IN HONG KONG TO MAKE MONEY BY ALL MEANS, BUT IF YOU CAN, GIVE SOMETHING OF YOURSELF TO THE PLACE. INVESTMENT, OF COURSE, CAN BE OF CAPITAL OR JUST STRAIGHT-FORWARD PERSONAL COMMITMENT," HE SAID.

"IF THERE IS THE RIGHT DEGREE OF COMMITMENT I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE VENTURE WILL BE ALL THE MORE PROFITABLE IN ANY EVENT.

"IN ENCOURAGING OVERSEAS INVESTMENT WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT SEEKING A FREE LUNCH, BUT WE TEND TO FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE CLEARLY WITH US FOR THE LONG TERM," SIR PIERS SAID.

HE NOTED THAT MANY OF HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS INVESTORS DID BECOME READILY IDENTIFIED WITH HONG KONG.

"INDEED, SOME OF THE OLDER BRITISH INVESTORS IN HONG KONG HAVE BECOME SO IDENTIFIED WITH THE PLACE THAT WE NO LONGER THINK OF THEM AS BRITISH!" HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE YEARS, HONG KONG HAD SEEN CONSIDERABLE BRITISH FINANCIAL INVOLVEMENT IN HONG KONG.

"FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE 1980'S NEW INVESTMENT FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AVERAGED SOME 170 MILLION POUNDS STERLING A YEAR.

"FURTHERMORE, ALTHOUGH THE VISIBLE TRADE BALANCE IS IN HONG KONG'S FAVOUR (BY SOME 700 MILLION POUNDS STERLING, INCLUDING RE-EXPORTS, IN 1988), HONG KONG HAS PROVIDED A LARGE SOURCE OF INVISIBLE EARNINGS FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 1 BILLION POUNDS STERLING A YEAR," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN HONG KONG, THE VERY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION MADE BY BRITISH MANAGERS SHOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

"THE BRITISH CONNECTION IS VALUED, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT MANY BRITISH INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR EXECUTIVES FEEL AT EASE IN HONG KONG BECAUSE SO MANY OF THE FORMS AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE FAMILIAR TO THEM," HE SAID.

SPEAKING OF HONG KONG'S DRAMATIC TRANSFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT, SIR PIERS SAID OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS OR SO, HONG KONG HAD EMERGED AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL SERVICE CENTRES OF SOUTH EAST ASIA.

"SERVICES NOW ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF OUR GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND RE-EXPORTS ARE LARGER IN VALUE THAN TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS," HE SAID.

THE ESTABLISHMENT BY THE CHINESE OF THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES IN GUANGDONG AND A PARALLEL LIBERALISATION OF PROVINCIAL POLICIES ACHIEVED TWO THINGS.

"HONG KONG INDUSTRIALISTS GAINED ROOM FOR EXPANSION RIGHT NEXT DOOR, AND, AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WAS CREATED A NEW DEMAND FOR PORT, TRADE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, WHICH WE IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN ONLY TOO HAPPY TO MEET.

"PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY HONG KONG HAS BEEN ENJOYING THE BENEFITS OF AN ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE HINTERLAND.

"BUT HONG KONG'S OPPORTUNITIES DO NOT END THERE. NOT ONLY HAVE DEVELOPMENTS IN GUANGDONG AND THE REST OF CHINA BEEN OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG, HONG KONG HAS ALSO DEVELOPED AS A REGIONAL SERVICES CENTRE.

"HONG KONG HAS PROVED ITS VALUE AS A CENTRE FOR MANAGEMENT, DESIGN, FINANCING, MARKETING, AND OFFERS SERVICES THAT ENABLE MANY BUSINESSES IN THE REGION TO PROSPER.

"THE DEVELOPMENTS I HAVE DESCRIBED WILL BE OF ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE IN THE YEARS AHEAD BECAUSE WITH OUR INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION, HONG KONG IS PRODUCING THE PEOPLE WHO WILL FLOURISH BEST IN THIS SERVICE ORIENTED, MANAGERIAL, DEVELOPMENTAL ROLE," HE SAID.

"AS HONG KONG REACHES OUT TO THE REST OF THE WORLD, IT IS NATURAL, PERHAPS INEVITABLE, THAT THE WORLD WILL WANT TO BE PART OF HONG KONG'S BUSINESS SCENE," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS SAID THAT RECENTLY THE STRESSES AND STRAINS ON OUR ECONOMY HAD BEEN FORMIDABLE.

"NEVERTHELESS, HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY IS STILL OPERATING SUCCESSFULLY DESPITE FIERCE COMPETITION ALL ROUND THE REGION," HE SAID.

MEETING NEW DEMANDS HAD PITTED EMPLOYER AGAINST EMPLOYER IN A BATTLE FOR SCARCE LABOUR RESOURCES, RESULTING IN HONG KONG'S EXTREMELY LOW UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES AND THE WAGE-LED INFLATION OF THE LAST THREE YEARS.

"HENCE ALSO OUR NEED TO PROCEED URGENTLY WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SEA AND AIRPORT FACILITIES, AND ALL THE ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, HE SAID.

DESCRIBING THESE AS PROBLEMS OF ANY GROWING ECONOMY, SIR PIERS SAID: "LIKE ALL OF OUR PAST INTENSIVE INVESTMENT IN PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, THE PROBLEMS NOW FACING US WILL CHALLENGE OUR SKILLS AT BUDGETARY MANAGEMENT.

"BUT MANAGED THEY WILL BE, WITH OUR TRADITIONAL PRUDENCE IN THESE MATTERS.

"WHAT I WANT TO EMPHASISE TO YOU TODAY IS THAT OUR PROBLEMS, THE PROJECTS WE ARE UNDERTAKING, AND THE ECONOMIC GROWTH WHICH SUPPLIES THE MOMENTUM FOR THEM REPRESENT A HUGE RANGE OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES," SIR PIERS SAID.

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FSD SERVICES BACK TO NORMAL

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FROM 10.05 AM TODAY (THURSDAY), ALL SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S CONTINGENCY PLAN HAVE BEEN CANCELLED AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT ARE BACK TO NORMAL.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. LAM CHEK-YUEN, SAID THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON.

MR LAM SAID THE CONTINGENCY PLAN HAD WORKED PERFECTLY WELL IN MAINTAINING RESCUE AND FIRE COVER THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY DURING THE PERIOD OF THE HUNGER STRIKE BY FIREMEN.

"I PARTICULARLY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT BECAUSE OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PLAN, WE WERE ABLE TO KEEP THE KAI TAK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OPEN AND FULLY OPERATIONAL THROUGHOUT.

"WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO RESPOND TO ALL FIRE AND SPECIAL SERVICE CALLS WHERE LIVES AND PROPERTY WERE REPORTED TO BE IN DANGER," HE SAID.

MR LAM PAID A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICER CADRE AND A SMALL GROUP OF FIREMEN WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED IMMEASURABLY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONTINGENCY PLAN.

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THROUGHOUT THE DIFFICULT PERIOD, THEY HAD REMAINED DEDICATED TO THEIR DUTY AND HONOURED THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE PUBLIC AND THE COMMUNITY.

"MEMBERS OF OUR AMBULANCE SERVICE AND FIRE CONTROL DESERVE A PAT ON THE BACK AS WELL AS THEY HAVE WORKED EXTREMELY HARD TO COPE WITH THE EXTRA DEMANDS FOR SERVICE ARISING FROM THE HUNGER STRIKE," HE SAID.

MR LAM ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF THE EFFORTS MADE BY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS, THE LIFT COMPANIES, AND OTHERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE AND THE PART THEY PLAYED IN THE CONTINGENCY PLAN.

HE REFERRED TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, CIVIL AID SERVICES, HOUSING DEPARTMENT, HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MARINE POLICE, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, ROYAL NAVY, ARMY, AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, AND THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

"BETWEEN 9 AM ON TUESDAY, THE DAY THE HUNGER STRIKE BEGAN, AND 9 AM THIS MORNING, WE RECEIVED 131 FIRE CALLS AND 56 SPECIAL SERVICE CALLS.

"ALL THESE CALLS WERE ATTENDED BY OUR FIRE APPLIANCES. THE AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME WAS ABOUT FOUR AND A HALF MINUTES.

"DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE CIVIL AID SERVICES RESPONDED TO NINE VEGETATION FIRES AND 23 PERSONS SHUT-IN LIFT INCIDENTS WERE ATTENDED BY VARIOUS LIFT COMPANIES," MR LAM SAID.

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WATER QUALITY REPORT AND NEW GRADING SYSTEM ANNOUNCED

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED DETAILS OF A REPORT ENTITLED "BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG, 1989".

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO INTRODUCED A NEW FORTNIGHTLY GRADING SYSTEM TO PUBLICISE THE GRADES OF WATER QUALITY FOR BATHING BEACHES DURING THE SWIMMING SEASON.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, EPD'S PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR PAUL HOLMES, SAID THE REPORT REVIEWED THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF THE BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG IN THE BATHING SEASON OF 1989.

/THE REPORT

THE REPORT ANALYSED THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY TRENDS OF BATHING BEACHES AND EVALUATED THE EFFECT OF BEACH ATTENDANCE ON BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY AT THESE BEACHES. THE POLLUTION SOURCES OF BEACHES IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS AND THE REMEDIAL ACTIONS REQUIRED WERE ALSO DISCUSSED.

THE REPORT STATED THAT THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF SILVERMINE BAY, ANGLERS', TING KAU AND ROCKY BAY BEACHES HAD BEEN RESTORED TO LEVELS REGARDED AS SUITABLE FOR SWIMMING. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF CASTLE PEAK AND OLD CAFETERIA BEACHES HAD IMPROVED.

WITH REGARD TO ROCKY BAY BEACH, THE REPORT SAID ALTHOUGH THE SHORT-TERM TREND OF THE BEACH WAS IMPROVING, CONTINUATION OF IMPROVEMENT DEPENDED ON FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF REMEDIAL MEASURES.

A SUMMARY OF THE RANKING FOR ALL THE GAZETTED AND NON-GAZETTED BEACHES IN THE SWIMMING SEASON OF 1989 WAS PRESENTED IN THE REPORT.

THE IMPROVEMENT TREND IN WATER QUALITY FOR 27 GAZETTED BEACHES IN THE SWIMMING SEASON OF 1988 HAD BEEN MAINTAINED. NINE GAZETTED BEACHES WHOSE WATER QUALITY HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DETERIORATING HAD BEGUN TO IMPROVE.

IN GENERAL, THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF HONG KONG BEACHES IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE BATHING SEASON OF 1989.

THE REPORT ON BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF BATHING BEACHES, AT \$26 A COPY, IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

MR HOLMES SAID STARTING FROM APRIL THIS YEAR, A NEW FORTNIGHTLY GRADING SYSTEM FOR ALL BATHING BEACHES WILL BE USED.

THE GRADING WILL BE ANNOUNCED ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS DURING THE SWIMMING SEASON.

THIS FORTNIGHTLY GRADING SYSTEM OF BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY RECOMMENDED BY EPD HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY MEMBERS OF THE STEERING GROUP ON BEACH WATER QUALITY.

THE NEW FORTNIGHTLY GRADING SYSTEM IS SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

NEW FORTNIGHTLY GRADING SYSTEM			
GRADE	E. COLI COUNT PER 100 MILLILITRE OF WATER	EXPECTED HEALTH RISK: CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS	REMARKS (WATER QUALITY)
1	NOT MORE THAN 24	UNDETECTABLE	GOOD
2	NOT MORE THAN 180	NOT MORE THAN 10	FAIR
3	NOT MORE THAN 610	NOT MORE THAN 15	ACCEPTABLE
4	MORE THAN 610	MORE THAN 15	POOR

THE RANKING CRITERIA FOR THE NEW FORTNIGHTLY GRADING SYSTEM ARE BASED ON LOCAL DATA ON HEALTH EFFECTS OF BEACH WATER POLLUTION OF HONG KONG AND THUS WILL SUIT THE LOCAL CONDITIONS.

THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO) THAT LOCAL GUIDELINES SHOULD BE USED IN PLACE ON THE GENERALISED WHO GUIDELINES.

THE RANKING CRITERIA FOR THE NEW FORTNIGHTLY GRADING SYSTEM ARE SOMEWHAT MORE STRINGENT THAN IN THE PAST.

THE EFFECT OF THIS WILL BE THAT SOME BEACHES PREVIOUSLY GRADED "A" WOULD NO LONGER BE PLACED IN THE TOP RANKING BUT WILL NOW HAVE A RANKING OF "2".

HOWEVER, SUCH A CHANGE IN RANKING WILL NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DETERIORATION IN WATER QUALITY, ONLY THAT THE EXISTING WATER QUALITY HAS A NEW RANKING UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM.

ANOTHER POSSIBLE EFFECT IS THAT THE GRADINGS OF BEACH WATER QUALITY MAY FLUCTUATE MORE FREQUENTLY BECAUSE OF THE NARROWER RANGES OF E. COLI COUNTS BEING USED.

MR HOLMES SAID THE PUBLIC MIGHT NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH THE NEW SYSTEM AT FIRST BUT ITS INTRODUCTION IS JUSTIFIED ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD PROVIDE BOTH A BETTER SAFEGUARD FOR THE HEALTH OF THE SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BASE DECISIONS AS TO WHETHER TO SWIM OR NOT.

AS IN THE PAST YEAR, THE GRADINGS ON WATER QUALITY OF BATHING BEACHES WILL BE ANNOUNCED EVERY FORTNIGHT STARTING FROM APRIL.

HOWEVER, GRADINGS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED FOR CASTLE PEAK, OLD CAFETERIA AND ROCKY BAY BEACHES BECAUSE THESE BEACHES HAVE ALREADY BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING.

MR HOLMES ADDED THAT BEACH-GOERS SHOULD NOTE THAT IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE NOTICE BOARDS AT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S BEACHES WHICH DISPLAY THE MOST RECENT GRADINGS RELEASED BY THE EPD CAN BE ALTERED TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW DESCRIPTIONS.

AT PRESENT, THE FORTNIGHTLY GRADINGS ARE DISPLAYED AT REGIONAL COUNCIL'S BATHING BEACHES ONLY AND NOT AT URBAN COUNCIL'S BEACHES.

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IMPROVEMENTS TO LEGAL AID ANNOUNCED
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A PACKAGE OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PRESENT LEGAL AID POLICY WHICH INCLUDES A FAIRER SYSTEM OF FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT AND SUBSTANTIAL RAISING OF APPLICANTS' ELIGIBILITY LIMITS WAS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS TODAY (THURSDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1, A PERSON'S ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL AID WOULD BE ASSESSED BY LOOKING AT HIS COMBINED DISPOSABLE INCOME AND CAPITAL (KNOWN AS "FINANCIAL CAPACITY").

"AT PRESENT THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT HAS TO ASSESS AN APPLICANT'S INCOME AND CAPITAL SEPARATELY WHEN APPLYING A MEANS TEST TO ASSESS ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL AID.

"IF THE APPLICANT FAILS EITHER TEST, HE OR SHE WILL NOT GET LEGAL AID. THIS SYSTEM OF SEPARATE ASSESSMENT THEREFORE WORKS TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF THOSE HAVING ONLY INCOME OR CAPITAL. THE NEW SYSTEM WILL REMOVE SUCH INEQUITIES," HE SAID.

ON THE RAISING OF ELIGIBILITY LIMITS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXISTING DISPOSABLE INCOME (ACTUAL INCOME LESS ALLOWANCES) AND CAPITAL LIMITS WERE \$2,200 PER MONTH AND \$15,000 RESPECTIVELY.

"THE MAXIMUM FINANCIAL LIMIT OF THE IMPROVED COMBINED SYSTEM IS \$120,000. AN APPLICANT WITH A FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF \$46,000 OR BELOW WILL HAVE LEGAL AID PROVIDED FREE, IF HIS CASE IS ONE WHICH QUALIFIES FOR LEGAL AID AND HE HAS A REASONABLE CASE.

"AN APPLICANT AT THE TOP END OF THE SCALE, THAT IS HAVING A FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF \$120,000 WOULD BE REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE UP TO \$54,400 IF THE COSTS INCURRED IN THE PROCEEDINGS WERE IN EXCESS OF THIS SUM AND WERE NOT RECOVERED FROM THE OPPOSING PARTY.

"AS IN THE EXISTING SYSTEM, CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE PAID BY INSTALMENTS WHENEVER APPROPRIATE."

ANOTHER IMPROVEMENT CONCERNS PERSONAL ALLOWANCES WHICH ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN ASSESSING AN INDIVIDUAL'S ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL AID.

"THESE ALLOWANCES WILL BE INCREASED IN APRIL IN LINE WITH THE ADJUSTMENT TO THE SCALE OF BASIC RATES OF ALLOWANCES PAYABLE UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO EXAMINED A PROPOSAL MADE BY THE LEGAL PROFESSION FOR THE SETTING UP OF A STATUTORY ORGANISATION TO ADMINISTER LEGAL AID BUT DECIDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID THROUGH THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT.

"THE PRESENT SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY GAINED MUCH PUBLIC CONFIDENCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID, STRESSING THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S LAWYERS WHO TAKE DECISIONS ON ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL AID OPERATE WITHIN CLEARLY DEFINED GUIDELINES OF STATUTORY CONTROL AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS WHICH ENSURE IMPARTIALITY.

"AN UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANT FOR LEGAL AID HAS A RIGHT TO APPEAL TO THE REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT IN CIVIL CASES AND TO THE COURT IN CRIMINAL CASES. THESE RIGHTS ARE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS BUILT INTO THE SYSTEM.

"OTHER CHANNELS FOR COMPLAINT SUCH AS THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS AND OMELCO WOULD REMAIN AVAILABLE AND EFFECTIVE FOR AGGRIEVED APPLICANTS," HE ADDED.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * ALLOWANCES IN COMPUTING DISPOSABLE INCOME TO INCLUDE PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS AND SALARY TAX PAYMENTS AS THESE ARE COMMITTED EXPENDITURE;
- * ASSETS WHICH PROVIDE AN APPLICANT'S PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF INCOME TO BE DISREGARDED IN COMPUTING DISPOSABLE CAPITAL;
- * THE ENTIRE VALUE OF AN APPLICANT'S OWNER OCCUPIED DWELLING TO BE DISREGARDED IN COMPUTING DISPOSABLE CAPITAL;
- * THE RESOURCE OF AN INFANT APPLICANT NOT TO BE AGGREGATED WITH THE PARENTS' RESOURCES IN MEANS TESTING;

- * DISCRETION TO WAIVE THE FINANCIAL CAPACITY LIMIT TO BE GIVEN TO THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL, BUT NOT IN CIVIL CASES;
- * THE FINANCIAL CAPITAL LIMIT AND CONTRIBUTIONS SCALES TO BE REVIEWED REGULARLY, AT LEAST ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS, HAVING REGARD TO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, MOVEMENTS IN THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE RATES;
- * LEGAL AID TO BE AVAILABLE TO DEFEND A COUNTERCLAIM ALLEGING DEFAMATION.

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ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDING TERMINATED

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) IT HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES HAD ANNOUNCED TERMINATION OF THE ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDING AGAINST RE-EXPORTS OF SILICON METAL OF CHINESE ORIGIN FROM HONG KONG INTO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC).

SINCE THE INVESTIGATION SHOWED THAT THE IMPORTS RECORDED IN COMMUNITY STATISTICS AS ORIGINATING IN HONG KONG IN FACT ORIGINATED IN CHINA, THE COMMISSION DECIDED THAT A SPECIFIC ANTI-DUMPING DUTY SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSED ON THE PRODUCT FROM HONG KONG AND THE PROCEEDING AGAINST HONG KONG SHOULD BE TERMINATED.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR STUART HARBINSON, SAID THAT AS SOON AS THE PROCEEDING AGAINST HONG KONG WAS INITIATED IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMISSION REQUESTING THAT HONG KONG BE EXCLUDED FROM THE PROCEEDING BECAUSE THE PRODUCT IN QUESTION WAS MERELY TRANS-SHIPED THROUGH THE TERRITORY.

"WE WELCOME THE COMMISSION'S DECISION TO EXCLUDE HONG KONG AND HOPE THAT THE SAME PRINCIPLE WILL BE APPLIED TO ANOTHER SIMILAR CASE CONCERNING THE RE-EXPORT OF TUNGSTEN ORE AND CONCENTRATES FROM HONG KONG INTO THE EEC," MR HARBINSON SAID.

"THERE ARE STILL FIVE EEC ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HONG KONG AWAITING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF INVESTIGATION RESULTS. THE PRODUCTS INVOLVED ARE TUNGSTEN ORE, PHOTO ALBUMS, AUDIO TAPES, SMALL SCREEN COLOUR TELEVISION RECEIVERS AND DENIM CLOTH.

"WE SHALL CONTINUE TO MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS VERY CLOSELY," MR HARBINSON SAID.

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MERCHANT SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR TAX EVASION

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A TRADING COMPANY PROPRIETOR WAS TODAY (THURSDAY) FOUND GUILTY OF SIGNING INCORRECT PROFITS TAX RETURNS, WITH WILFUL INTENT TO EVADE TAX.

THE DEFENDANT, MR HO LUI, 62, DENIED SEVEN CHARGES OF TAX EVASION, AND WAS CONVICTED AFTER TRIAL BEFORE DEPUTY JUDGE SURMAN IN THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT.

HE WAS ORDERED TO PAY \$1,955,000 IN FINE AND WAS SENTENCED TO IMMEDIATE IMPRISONMENT OF 12 MONTHS.

THE COURT WAS TOLD THAT DURING THE YEARS BETWEEN 1980 AND 1986, THE DEFENDANT WITHDREW STOCK OF PLASTIC MATERIALS FROM HIS OWN BUSINESS, WILSON TRADING COMPANY, AND SOLD THEM TO OTHER PARTIES UNDER A SEPARATE TYPE OF INVOICES.

THESE INVOICES WERE KEPT PERSONALLY BY THE DEFENDANT AND WERE NOT RECORDED IN THE BOOKS OF THE BUSINESS.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD OF TIME, THE DEFENDANT SIGNED AND SUBMITTED INCORRECT PROFITS TAX RETURNS WITH SUPPRESSED DAY-TO-DAY SALES AND INFLATED COSTS.

THE UNDERSTATEMENT OF PROFITS IN TOTAL WAS \$6,779,922 OR 86 PER CENT OF THE TRUE PROFITS, AND THE TAX UNDERCHARGED WAS \$1,080,153.

IN PASSING SENTENCE, THE JUDGE REMARKED THAT THIS WAS A BLATANT FALSIFICATION OF ACCOUNTS TO DEFRAUD THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID THE AMOUNT INVOLVED WAS LARGE AND IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO HAVE AN IMMEDIATE CUSTODIAL SENTENCE.

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AIRPORT NOISE ABATEMENT MEASURES ON AGENDA

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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE THE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AIRPORT GROUND NOISE MITIGATION MEASURES AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS REPORTS ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 6 TUNG YAN STREET.

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READING AWARD SCHEME FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS

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WINNERS OF THIS YEAR'S PRIMARY 5 AND 6 READING AWARD SCHEME, ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND LIONS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303, WILL RECEIVE PRIZES IN A CEREMONY TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), MR WONG SIK-WAH, AND LIONS CLUB REPRESENTATIVES WILL PRESENT TROPHIES, CERTIFICATES OF MERIT AND BOOK COUPONS TO THE WINNING SCHOOLS AND PUPILS.

THE SCHEME IS DESIGNED TO HELP PRIMARY PUPILS DEVELOP GOOD READING HABITS, IMPROVE THEIR LANGUAGE SKILLS AND MAKE BETTER USE OF CLASS LIBRARY RESOURCES.

MORE THAN 26,000 STUDENTS TOOK PART IN THE SCHEME.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRIMARY 5 AND 6 READING AWARD SCHEME PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD IN THE RAINBOW ROOM ON THE 22ND FLOOR OF LEE GARDENS HOTEL, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 7 PM.

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REVISION IN PRICE OF SOFTWARE FOR DISKETTE SUBMISSION SCHEME

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THE PRICE OF THE SOFTWARE AND OPERATION MANUAL IN CONNECTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S DISKETTE SUBMISSION SCHEME, WHICH WAS IMPLEMENTED ON JULY 1 LAST YEAR TO PROVIDE TRADERS WITH AN ADDITIONAL OPTION TO SUBMIT IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS ON MICRO-COMPUTER DISKETTES, WILL BE REVISED TO \$160 PER SET FROM THE PRESENT \$110 PER SET FROM APRIL 1.

A CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE PRICE HAD TO BE REVISED DUE TO THE INCREASE IN COST OF PRODUCTION.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME IS TO FACILITATE TRADERS IN PREPARING TRADE DECLARATIONS IN A MORE ACCURATE AND EFFICIENT WAY THROUGH THE USE OF COMPUTERS.

TO JOIN THE SCHEME, TRADERS ONLY NEED A MICRO-COMPUTER SYSTEM (WITH HARD DISK AND PRINTER) WHICH RUNS ON MS-DOS OF VERSION 2.0 AND HIGHER.

THE USER FRIENDLY SOFTWARE AND OPERATION MANUAL ARE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE TRADERS WHO HAVE NOT YET COMPUTERISED THEIR TRADE DOCUMENTATION WORK, TO FACILITATE THEM IN PREPARING IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS USING MICRO-COMPUTERS AND AT THE SAME TIME PRODUCING OUTPUTS THAT MEET ALL THE FORMAT REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED BY GOVERNMENT.

SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHEME LAST YEAR, ABOUT 1,000 COPIES OF THE SOFTWARE HAVE BEEN SOLD. THE SOFTWARE TOGETHER WITH THE OPERATION MANUAL ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 18TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

TRADERS ARE REMINDED TO BRING ALONG THEIR COMPANY CHOP IN THE COURSE OF THE PURCHASE OF THE SOFTWARE. THOSE TRADERS WHO WISH TO PURCHASE THE SOFTWARE BEFORE APRIL SHOULD APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE 10.30 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 31).

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 823 4883.

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POLICE REMINDER ON INTRUDER ALARMS

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POLICE WILL BE SENDING NOTICES TO OCCUPANTS WHOSE INTRUDER ALARMS HAVE BEEN ACTIVATED TO REMIND THEM OF THE LEGAL REQUIREMENT TO INSTALL AUTOMATIC CUT-OFF DEVICE.

THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF THE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU, MR LEE KI-PONG, SAID LEGISLATION INTRODUCED LAST OCTOBER REQUIRED AN INTRUDER ALARM SYSTEM TO BE FITTED WITH A DEVICE WHICH WOULD CUT THE AUDIBLE SIGNAL NOT MORE THAN 15 MINUTES AFTER ITS ACTIVATION.

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A GRACE PERIOD LASTING UNTIL OCTOBER 18 THIS YEAR IS PROVIDED TO ALLOW ANY NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS TO EQUIPMENT.

MR LEE SAID THE NOTICE WOULD ADVISE OWNERS THAT SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE AUTOMATIC CUT-OUT UNITS WERE AVAILABLE WHICH WOULD QUICKLY AND EASILY BE FITTED TO THEIR ALARM SYSTEM.

HE SAID: "IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE OWNERS TO UTILISE A REPUTABLE COMPANY TO CARRY OUT ALTERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS."

AFTER THE EXPIRY OF THE GRACE PERIOD, ANYONE WHO FAILS TO MEET THE LEGAL REQUIREMENT IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS.

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ANNUAL ANTI-MOSQUITO EDUCATION CAMPAIGN STARTS ON SUNDAY

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THE ANNUAL TERRITORY-WIDE MOSQUITO PREVENTION EDUCATION CAMPAIGN WILL START ON SUNDAY (APRIL 1) TO REMIND THE PUBLIC TO HELP PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING WITH THE APPROACH OF THE HOT AND HUMID WEATHER.

THE CAMPAIGN IS RUN BY THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH.

A 24-HOUR HEALTH EDUCATION TELEPHONE HOTLINE, 723 0013, WILL BEGIN OPERATIONAL THIS SUNDAY TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON MOSQUITO PREVENTION.

AS MOSQUITOES BREED IN STAGNANT WATER, THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR OF THE UNIT, MR TUNG CHAN-LONG, CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO ELIMINATE MOSQUITO BREEDING GROUNDS:

- * TO KEEP ALL TINS, BOTTLES, RECEPTACLES AND RUBBER TYRES AWAY FROM OPEN SPACES AND TO TURN UPSIDE DOWN ALL LARGE RECEPTACLES WHICH CANNOT BE REMOVED READILY;
- * TO COVER WATER STORAGE TANKS AND ENSURE THAT THEY ARE IN GOOD REPAIR;
- * TO ENSURE THAT DRAINAGE IS IN ORDER TO AVOID ACCUMULATION OF WATER;
- * TO RENEW WATER IN VASES AT LEAST ONCE WEEKLY AND TO MAKE SURE THAT NO WATER ACCUMULATES IN TRAYS OF FLOWER POTS FOR MORE THAN SEVEN DAYS; AND

/* TO ELIMINATE

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- * TO ELIMINATE THE COLLECTION OF STAGNANT WATER AROUND THE HOME OR IN THE GARDEN.

MR TUNG ALSO URGED BUILDING CONTRACTORS TO INSPECT FREQUENTLY THEIR SITES AND TO REMOVE ALL STAGNANT WATER, OR TO SPRAY AT LEAST ONCE WEEKLY A LAYER OF DIESEL OIL ON THE SURFACE OF WATER THAT COULD NOT BE DRAINED AWAY.

"THE UNIT WILL SEND LETTERS WITH SUPPORTING PUBLICITY MATERIALS TO BUILDING CONTRACTORS, OWNERS CORPORATIONS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND MANAGEMENT OFFICES OF LARGE PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATES APPEALING FOR CO-OPERATION DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD.

"TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE MOSQUITO PREVENTION MESSAGE, POSTERS AND LEAFLETS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT SCHOOLS AND DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION," MR TUNG SAID.

"THERE WILL ALSO BE TELEVISION API'S (ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST) AND ON-STREET MOBILE BROADCASTING IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY," HE SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO CALL ON THE DISTRICT OFFICES (ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE) OF BOTH THE URBAN SERVICES AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS FOR ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, MR TUNG ADDED.

UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE, ANYONE WHO ALLOWS MOSQUITO BREEDING ON PREMISES IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000.

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR RUGBY TOURNAMENT IN HAPPY VALLEY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN HAPPY VALLEY ON SATURDAY (MARCH 31) AND SUNDAY (APRIL 1) TO FACILITATE THE HOLDING OF THE RUGBY TOURNAMENT AT HONG KONG STADIUM:

FROM 8.30 AM TO 7.30 PM ON SATURDAY, AND FROM 7.30 AM TO 7.30 PM ON SUNDAY, CAROLINE HILL ROAD SECTION BETWEEN LINK ROAD AND STADIUM PATH WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.

CAROLINE HILL ROAD SECTION BETWEEN EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD AND COTTON PATH WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC EXCEPT THOSE VEHICLES REQUIRING ACCESS TO PREMISES.

/CAROLINE HILL

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CAROLINE HILL ROAD SECTION BETWEEN COTTON PATH AND LEIGHTON ROAD/PENNINGTON STREET WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD SECTION BETWEEN STADIUM PATH AND TUNG LO WAN ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND; BUT VEHICULAR ACCESS TO THE ST PAUL'S HOSPITAL CARPARK FROM TUNG LO WAN ROAD WILL BE MAINTAINED.

WESTBOUND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ON HYSAN AVENUE WILL BE DIVERTED TO TURN LEFT ONTO EASTBOUND LEIGHTON ROAD.

SOUTHBOUND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ON SUN WUI ROAD WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING RIGHT ONTO WESTBOUND LEIGHTON ROAD.

TRAFFIC CONES WILL BE LAID ON THE SECTION OF LEIGHTON ROAD BETWEEN HYSAN AVENUE AND CAROLINE HILL ROAD TO ALLOW FOR TWO LANES OF EASTBOUND TRAFFIC.

COACHES, TAXIS AND PRIVATE CARS WILL BE ARRANGED TO SET DOWN PASSENGERS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- * SPECTATORS COACHES - EASTERN HOSPITAL SERVICE ROAD, OR CAROLINE HILL ROAD OUTSIDE SO KON PO RECREATION GROUND VIA NORTHBOUND CAROLINE HILL ROAD AND COTTON PATH AS DIRECTED BY THE POLICE ON SITE;
- * PLAYERS COACHES - OUTSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE STADIUM VIA EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD FROM CAROLINE HILL ROAD DIRECT;
- * TAXIS - SOUTHERN KERBSIDE OF EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD NEAR CARPARK NO. 5;
- * PRIVATE CARS - NORTHERN KERBSIDE OF EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD OPPOSITE CARPARK NO. 5.

ALL THE ABOVE VEHICLES SHOULD LEAVE VIA NORTHBOUND EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD TO TUNG LO WAN ROAD AFTER SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS. PLAYER COACHES AND VEHICLES WITH LABELS ISSUED BY THE RUGBY UNION WILL BE PERMITTED TO PARK INSIDE THE STADIUM CARPARKS.

ABOUT 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE LAST MATCH, ONLY COACHES WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE STADIUM PROXIMITY VIA SOUTHBOUND CAROLINE HILL ROAD.

THE STACKING AREAS WILL BE ARRANGED AS FOLLOWS:

- * SPECTATORS COACHES - EASTERN HOSPITAL SERVICE ROAD, OR CAROLINE HILL ROAD OUTSIDE SO KON PO RECREATION GROUND AS DIRECTED BY THE POLICE ON SITE;
- * PLAYERS COACHES - NORTHERN KERBSIDE OF EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD OPPOSITE CARPARK NO. 5.

/VEHICLES WILL

VEHICLES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING CAROLINE HILL ROAD FOR LINK ROAD AT LEIGHTON ROAD/CAROLINE HILL ROAD JUNCTION.

ON COMPLETION OF THE LAST MATCH, CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN STADIUM PATH AND LEIGHTON ROAD, AND EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD BETWEEN STADIUM PATH AND TUNG LO WAN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC BY POLICE TO FACILITATE THE DISPERSAL OF CROWD SHOULD THE SITUATION WARRANT.

BETWEEN 7 AM AND 8 PM, ALL LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING MATHESON STREET, LEIGHTON ROAD SOUTH OF IRVING STREET JUNCTION, RUSSELL STREET AND SHARP STREET EAST.

ALSO THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT FROM PERCIVAL STREET SOUTHBOUND TO LEIGHTON ROAD EASTBOUND, AND TO TURN LEFT FROM CAUSEWAY ROAD WESTBOUND TO TUNG LO WAN ROAD SOUTHBOUND.

ALL ON-STREET CAR PARKING SPACES IN SUN WUI ROAD, STADIUM PATH, THE UNNAMED SERVICE ROAD AROUND THE STADIUM AND EASTERN HOSPITAL SERVICE ROAD WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 7 AM TO 8 PM.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF WO TAI STREET IN FANLING
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE SECTION OF WO TAI STREET BETWEEN LUEN SHING STREET AND LUEN HING STREET IN FANLING WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE WATERMANS MAINTENANCE WORK.

DURING THE PERIOD OF CLOSURE, TRAFFIC ON WO TAI STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA LUEN SHING STREET, LUEN WO ROAD AND LUEN HING STREET.

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WATER CUT IN KWAI CHUNG
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY (MARCH 31) TO NOON THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES AT KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT INCLUDING KWAI FONG ESTATE, KWAI HING ESTATE, KWAI CHUNG ESTATE, TAI WO HAU ESTATE, KWAI SHING EAST ESTATE, KWAI SHING WEST ESTATE, TAI LIN PAI ROAD INDUSTRIAL AREA, WAH SING STREET, KUNG YIP STREET, WO TONG TSUI STREET INDUSTRIAL AREA AND KWAI HEI STREET INDUSTRIAL AREA.

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