



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1988

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PRESS FREEDOM KEY ELEMENT OF HK SOCIETY: GOVERNOR

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PRESS FREEDOM IS A KEY ELEMENT OF HONG KONG'S SOCIETY, BOTH FOR ITS PEOPLE AND IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE HONG KONG JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION, SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG HAD A LIVELY AND ACTIVE LOCAL PRESS WITH NO FEWER THAN 68 NEWSPAPERS AND 549 PERIODICALS BEING REGISTERED IN THE TERRITORY.

"MANY INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES USE HONG KONG AS A BASE FOR THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION.

"THIS IS A TRIBUTE NOT ONLY TO HONG KONG'S STRATEGIC LOCATION AND EXCELLENT COMMUNICATIONS, BUT ALSO TO THE RECEPTIVE ATMOSPHERE OF OUR SOCIETY," HE SAID.

"THIS IS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN - AND DO - SPEAK THEIR MINDS FREELY.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE."

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT STEPS WERE TAKEN LAST YEAR TO LIBERALISE THE LAWS CONTROLLING THE PRESS - LAWS THAT WERE OUT OF DATE AND WHICH HAD SCARCELY EVER BEEN USED.

"WE RETAINED ONE PROVISION WHICH HAS CAUSED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONTROVERSY, WE HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO REVIEWING THIS AT THE END OF THIS YEAR," HE SAID, STATING THAT THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THAT THE ISSUE OF PRESS FREEDOM WAS VITALLY IMPORTANT.

REFERRING TO THE ROLE OF JOURNALISTS IN SOCIETY, SIR DAVID SAID THE MEDIA HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART DURING THE LAST 20 YEARS WHICH HAD BEEN MOMENTOUS ONES FOR HONG KONG - RECORDING EVENTS FOR POSTERITY, HIGHLIGHTING SUCCESSES AND FAILURES, REFLECTING SOCIETY AND YET AT THE SAME TIME HELPING TO SHAPE IT.

HOWEVER, HE SUGGESTED THAT IN HONG KONG MORE ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO OTHER ASPECTS OF THE JOURNALIST'S TRADE IN ADDITION TO THE EXCITEMENT OF TRYING TO GET A SCOOP.

"OF COURSE, GETTING AN EXCLUSIVE STORY ON TO THE FRONT PAGE IS IMPORTANT. THAT IS WHAT SELLS NEWSPAPERS. AND IMMEDIATE NEWS IS THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE JOURNALIST'S TASK."

BUT, SIR DAVID SAID, THERE COULD BE MORE TO IT THAN THAT.

"VERY MANY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS WILL TAKE PLACE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER 1997. ALL THIS NEEDS TO BE REPORTED," HE CONTINUED.

/"BUT IT .....

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"BUT IT ALSO NEEDS TO BE PUT INTO ITS CONTEXT. THE IMPLICATIONS OF WHAT IS HAPPENING NEED TO BE ANALYSED CAREFULLY.

"MY IMPRESSION IS THAT MORE COULD BE DONE IN THIS AREA.

"I WOULD LIKE TO SEE US BUILDING UP OUR ABILITY TO ASSESS AND COMMENT THOUGHTFULLY ON HOW HONG KONG IS GOING TO EVOLVE, WHAT PROBLEMS WE WILL FACE AND, MOST IMPORTANT, HOW WE SHOULD DEAL WITH THEM," HE SAID.

"THE PRESS HAS ENORMOUS POWER. THE WORDS YOU WRITE ARE READ BY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE EVERY DAY.

"YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE PERHAPS BETTER THAN ANYONE TO ENSURING THAT POLITICAL DEBATE - IN THE WIDEST SENSE OF THE TERM - IS CARRIED OUT AT A HIGH AND INFORMED LEVEL AND THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES OF THE FUTURE AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE PRESENT," SIR DAVID SAID.

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#### GOVERNOR VISITS IMMIGRATION CHECKPOINTS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED THE HONG KONG-MACAU FERRY TERMINAL, MAN KAM TO TERMINAL AND LO WU TERMINAL OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND WAS BRIEFED ON THEIR OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR ALAN CARTER.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT THE HONG KONG-MACAU TERMINAL HANDLED 9.7 MILLION PASSENGERS IN 1987. THIS WAS A 21 PER CENT INCREASE OVER 1986.

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPUTERISED IMMIGRATION CONTROL IN MAY LAST YEAR, THE AVERAGE TIME TO PROCESS A PASSENGER HOLDING A HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD WITH THREE ASTERISKS (SOME 70 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL TRAFFIC) HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 38 SECONDS TO 22 SECONDS.

THE GOVERNOR THEN TRAVELLED TO THE MAN KAM TO TERMINAL, THE MAIN VEHICULAR CROSSING POINT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA.

LAST YEAR, THE TERMINAL HANDLED 2.8 MILLION VEHICLES, REPRESENTING A 33 PER CENT INCREASE OVER 1986. COMPUTERISED IMMIGRATION CONTROL WAS INTRODUCED AT MAN KAM TO ON NOVEMBER 1 LAST YEAR.

/SIR DAVID .....

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SIR DAVID ENDED HIS VISIT BY TOURING THE LO WU TERMINAL, THE LARGEST PASSENGER TERMINAL AT THE BORDER.

HE WAS TOLD THAT LAST YEAR, 22.9 MILLION PASSENGERS PASSED THROUGH LO WU, AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 22 PER CENT OVER 1986.

COMPUTERISED IMMIGRATION CONTROL WAS INTRODUCED AT LO WU ON AUGUST 1 LAST YEAR. ABOUT 85 PER CENT OF THE PASSENGERS THERE ARE HONG KONG RESIDENTS USING THREE-ASTERISK HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS.

"THE EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND VEHICLES MOVING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA SHOWS HOW MUCH ECONOMIC RELATIONS ARE IMPROVING," SIR DAVID SAID.

"WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE THE FACILITIES TO COPE WITH THE CONSTANTLY INCREASING DEMAND.

"THE SIMPLIFIED IMMIGRATION CONTROL SCHEME HAS BEEN A GREAT SUCCESS AND A GREAT BENEFIT TO TRAVELLERS."

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#### FS EXPLAINS OBJECTIVE IN REGULATING FINANCIAL SECTOR

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CHANGES WILL HAVE TO BE MADE TO BRING HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND MARKET STRUCTURES FULLY UP TO THE STANDARDS NOW EXPECTED OF A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

LESSONS HAD BEEN LEARNT AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO OVERHAUL THE REGULATORY SYSTEM WITHOUT DELAY SO THAT THE INTEGRITY OF THE MARKETS WOULD BE PROTECTED AND HONG KONG'S CONTINUING SUCCESS AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE WOULD BE ENSURED, HE SAID.

MR JACOBS WAS ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION'S FINANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

REGULATION OF THE SECURITIES MARKET HAD TRADITIONALLY BEEN CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE ENACTED IN 1974, A TIME WHEN HONG KONG'S SECURITIES MARKET WAS VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT WAS TODAY, MR JACOBS SAID.

SINCE THEN, THE RAPID GROWTH IN BUSINESS HAD BEEN FAR BEYOND EXPECTATIONS, AND THE INFLUX OF INTERNATIONAL STOCKBROKING HOUSES HAD HELPED TO TURN A LARGELY DOMESTIC MARKET INTO AN INTERNATIONAL ONE.

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"CLEARLY, A REGIME BUILT AROUND A 14 YEAR OLD ORDINANCE HAS HAD DIFFICULTIES IN COPING WITH THE PACE OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS," HE SAID.

"BUT THE EXTENT OF THOSE DIFFICULTIES WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY APPARENT DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE BULL MARKET.

"THE STOCK MARKET CRASH AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS HAVE, HOWEVER, SERVED TO SHOW UP WEAKNESSES IN THE EXISTING SYSTEM."

WHILE OBSERVING THAT THE COLLAPSE OF SHARE PRICES IN OCTOBER WAS A RESPONSE TO WORLD EVENTS AND NOT TO PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG'S OWN ECONOMY, MR JACOBS SAID RE-EXAMINATION OF THE MARKETS AND THE REGULATORY SYSTEMS WAS NECESSARY.

"THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED LAST NOVEMBER TO REVIEW THE MARKET AND REGULATORY SYSTEMS AND TO RECOMMEND CHANGES TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF THE MARKETS AND TO PROTECT INVESTORS," HE SAID.

"THE APPOINTMENT OF THIS COMMITTEE IS AN INDICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO CONTINUE HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE."

MR JACOBS ALSO NOTED THAT, IN RELATION TO THE PROTECTION OF SHAREHOLDERS IN HONG KONG, THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE FULL DISCLOSURE OF THE BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SHARES OF DIRECTORS AND SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS OF PUBLICLY LISTED COMPANIES AND OF THEIR SHARE DEALINGS.

"SUCH DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS WOULD REVEAL WHO ACTUALLY CONTROLS A COMPANY AND THUS MAKE INSIDER DEALING AND CREEPING TAKEOVERS MORE DIFFICULT," HE SAID.

JUDGING FROM COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM PROFESSIONAL AND CONCERNED BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS, THERE WAS A GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT MORE DISCLOSURE WOULD BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

IT WAS INTENDED THAT A BILL WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY, HE SAID.

COMMENTING THAT INSIDER DEALING HAD CAUSED INCREASING CONCERN IN HONG KONG, MR JACOBS SAID "THE LAW AS PRESENTLY FRAMED IS BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF 'CULPABILITY' OF CONDUCT BY INSIDERS, AND THE TASK OF DETERMINING WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN INSIDER TRADING FALLS UPON THE INSIDER DEALING TRIBUNAL."

TWO POSSIBLE OPTIONS IN TACKLING THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED, HE SAID.

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THE FIRST WAS TO BUILD UPON THE EXISTING TRIBUNAL SYSTEM AND INTRODUCE MORE POTENT SANCTIONS AND THE SECOND WAS TO MAKE INSIDER DEALING A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.

BOTH OPTIONS HAD THEIR MERITS AND DEMERITS AND HE NOTED THAT BOTH THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM AND THE SECURITIES COMMISSION HELD DIVIDED VIEWS ON THEM. THE GOVERNMENT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF FINALISING ITS OWN VIEWS IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS.

IT WAS INTENDED THAT A BILL TACKLING THE PROBLEM OF INSIDER DEALING WOULD BE INTRODUCED FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT, MR JACOBS SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ADDED THAT A BILL WOULD ALSO BE GAZETTED VERY SHORTLY TO AMEND THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE TO ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES TO PASS ON RELEVANT INFORMATION OBTAINED IN THE COURSE OF HIS DUTIES TO OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORITIES IN HONG KONG AND TO PARALLEL REGULATORY BODIES OVERSEAS.

"THIS WILL ENABLE THE REGULATORY AGENCIES HERE AND OVERSEAS TO CARRY OUT THEIR FUNCTIONS MORE EFFECTIVELY AND THUS PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION FOR THE INVESTING PUBLIC."

MR JACOBS ALSO REFERRED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S FREE MARKET PHILOSOPHY, AND SAID THE MAIN PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT REGULATION WAS TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE MARKETS AND TO PROTECT THOSE INVESTING IN THEM.

"WE ARE ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO AVOID OVER-REGULATION BECAUSE EXCESSIVE INTERFERENCE WILL ONLY STIFLE INNOVATION AND INHIBIT MARKET FORCES," HE SAID.

"OUR OBJECTIVE THEREFORE IS TO STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN THE MARKET REQUIREMENT FOR THE MINIMUM OF REGULATION AND THE NEED TO PROTECT INVESTORS ADEQUATELY."

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FS: POTENT SANCTIONS BEING CONSIDERED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING INTRODUCING SUFFICIENT SANCTIONS TO ERADICATE INSIDER DEALING FROM THE MARKET PLACE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ADDRESSING A HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON, MR JACOBS SAID THESE SANCTIONS WOULD BE POTENT AND INCLUDE FINANCIAL PENALTIES AND PENALTIES THAT WOULD BAR INSIDERS FROM HOLDING CERTAIN OFFICES.

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"WE ARE THINKING OF BARRING PEOPLE FROM HOLDING DIRECTORSHIPS OF COMPANIES; ENABLING THE TRIBUNAL OR COURT TO ORDER DISGORGEMENT OF PROFITS; OR IMPOSING PENALTIES IN THE FORM OF ORDERS OF COSTS, OR ORDERS THAT AN INSIDER PAYS, FOR EXAMPLE, TRIPLE DAMAGES, OR SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES," MR JACOBS SAID.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION WHICH STATED THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS MAKING INSIDER DEALING A CRIMINAL OFFENCE, MR JACOBS SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT IMPRISONMENT WAS THE ONLY SUITABLE PENALTY FOR SOMEONE FOUND GUILTY OF INSIDER DEALING.

"I THINK THERE ARE OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HIM THAT WOULD PROVE TO BE SUFFICIENT DETERRENT. WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS TO ERADICATE INSIDER DEALING FROM OUR MARKET PLACE. SO THE SENSIBLE APPROACH IS TO ADOPT A LEGAL PROCESS THAT WILL HAVE THAT EFFECT," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS SAID AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE NEARER THE TIME OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT.

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GOVT DETERMINED TO ENSURE FINANCIAL MARKETS' INTEGRITY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO SEE THAT THE INSTITUTIONAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE FINANCIAL MARKETS OF HONG KONG ENSURES THE INTEGRITY OF THE MARKET PLACE AND THAT THE INTERESTS OF INVESTORS ARE PROPERLY SAFEGUARDED, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION ON FINANCE ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION.

MR NENDICK SAID THE REPORT OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN MAY WOULD PROVIDE A VALUABLE BLUEPRINT, IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT CHANGES WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY IF HONG KONG WAS TO MAINTAIN ITS STANDING AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE OVER THE YEARS AHEAD.

"THE EVENTS OF LAST OCTOBER, THOUGH UNFORTUNATE IN THEMSELVES, HAVE PROVIDED THE CATALYST FOR CHANGE, AND I BELIEVE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO ATTRACT A BROAD CONSENSUS OF SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTING THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK SAID HONG KONG'S GROWTH AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE HAD BEEN RAPID AND THE FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY HERE HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY INTEGRATED AND COMPLEX.

/HE ADDED .....

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HE ADDED THAT THE RAPID GROWTH IN THE RANGE OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES ON OFFER TO BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CLIENTS HAD BEEN MOST IMPRESSIVE.

"ALL THIS MUST NOT, HOWEVER, BE A CAUSE FOR COMPLACENCY," HE SAID.

"TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S POSITION AS A MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRE, MARKET PARTICIPANTS MUST CONTINUE TO UPGRADE THE PRODUCTS THEY HAVE ON OFFER AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS."

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LADY WILSON VISITS TWO CENTRES

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LADY WILSON, WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR, VISITED A PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE AND A CENTRE FOR THE AGED THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SHE FIRST VISITED THE SHEK KIP MEI PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE RUN BY THE SPASTICS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG.

LADY WILSON WAS BRIEFED BY THE CENTRE SUPERVISOR ON THE CONTENT OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME WHICH WAS SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO DEVELOP THE FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS OF DISABLED CHILDREN.

SHE ALSO CHATTED WITH MOTHERS WHO WERE PARTICIPATING IN THESE TRAINING SESSIONS WHICH WOULD HELP THEM IN LOOKING AFTER THEIR CHILDREN AT HOME.

LADY WILSON NEXT VISITED THE CARITAS CHEUNG SHA WAN MULTI-SERVICES CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY.

SHE SAW THE ELDERLY PEOPLE TAKING PART IN A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CALLIGRAPHY, HANDICRAFT AND SINGING AND WAS GREETED WARMLY BY THEM.

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NEW WAYS TO TACKLE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS

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ANY PERSONS CONTEMPLATING BUILDING A STRUCTURE ON THE ROOF OF THEIR BUILDING, OR IN THE SIDE LANE OR AN EXTENSION FROM THE OUTSIDE OF THEIR FLAT, SHOULD DROP THE IDEA PROMPTLY.

WITHOUT HAVING AUTHORITY FROM THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE, THEY WOULD LAND IN A SPOT OF TROUBLE AND, VERY LIKELY, BE VERY MUCH OUT OF POCKET.

THE BOO HAS SET UP A "PRIORITY UNIT" TO DEAL WITH SUCH UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS (UBW) AND IT CAN GO INTO ACTION WITHIN 48 HOURS.

OWNERS OF SUCH STRUCTURES WOULD BE TOLD TO DEMOLISH THEM. IF NOT, THE PRIORITY UNIT WOULD MOVE IN AND DEMOLISH THEM AND CHARGE THE OWNERS.

THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS, MR CHAU CHAM-SON, SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON THAT A NEW SYSTEM TO TACKLE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS HAS HAD TO BE DEvised BECAUSE OF THE DANGER THEY POSE TO THE COMMUNITY.

"NEW CASES AND DANGEROUS CASES WILL BE TACKLED FIRST AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY," HE SAID.

"OTHERS THAT POSE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS WILL ALSO BE DEALT WITH, EVEN THOUGH FULL SOLUTIONS ARE NOT TO BE EXPECTED IN THE SHORT TERM."

DEPENDING ON MANPOWER RESOURCES, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE WILL EMBARK UPON LARGE-SCALE CLEARANCES OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ON A DISTRICT-BY-DISTRICT BASIS.

COMPREHENSIVE CLEARANCE PROGRAMMES WILL BE PREPARED EITHER ON THE BOO'S OWN INITIATIVE OR AS A RESULT OF RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED FROM PUBLIC BODIES.

THESE INCLUDE DISTRICT BOARDS, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEES AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEES.

HOWEVER, MR CHAU GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THERE WILL BE WIDE CONSULTATION BEFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY CLEARANCE PROGRAMMES.

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COMPUTERISED HAWKER LICENCES FROM APRIL 6

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THE ISSUING OF HAWKER LICENCES BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE COMPUTERISED FROM APRIL 6.

THE DEPARTMENT IS WRITING TO SOME 20,000 LICENSED HAWKERS TO TELL THEM INDIVIDUALLY THAT THE MANUAL METHOD OF ISSUING LICENCES WILL BE REPLACED BY COMPUTERISATION.

"AS FROM APRIL 6, WHEN HAWKERS RENEW THEIR LICENCES THEY WILL ALSO BE ISSUED AN IDENTITY-CARD TYPE BADGE CONTAINING THEIR PHOTOGRAPHS AND LICENCE DETAILS," SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL TODAY.

"THE BADGE WILL BE OF LAMINATED PLASTIC DESIGNED FOR WEARING DURING TRADING HOURS FOR EASY IDENTIFICATION."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH INITIALLY HAWKERS WOULD NOT BE BOUND BY LAW TO DISPLAY THEIR BADGES DURING TRADING, IT WOULD BE IN THEIR INTERESTS TO DO SO TO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES FROM ILLEGAL HAWKERS WHO ARE SUBJECT TO ARREST.

"MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO AMEND THE LEGISLATION TO MAKE IT A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FOR LICENSED HAWKERS TO PROMINENTLY DISPLAY THE BADGES DURING TRADING, WITH PROVISIONS FOR PROSECUTION AND FINES FOR NOT DOING SO," HE SAID.

ON APPLYING FOR RENEWAL OF THEIR LICENCES, HAWKERS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING ALONG TWO RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS SIZED 38MM X 26MM, THEIR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD, THEIR EXPIRED LICENCES AND PRESCRIBED FEES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE \$3.2 MILLION COMPUTERISED HAWKER LICENCE SYSTEM WOULD KEEP AN ACCURATE RECORD OF ALL LICENSED HAWKERS AND MAKE HAWKER MANAGEMENT MORE EFFICIENT BY AUTOMATING THE PRODUCTION OF LICENCES AND ACCOUNTING RECORDS, AS WELL AS PROVIDING MUCH-NEEDED INFORMATION FOR MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS.

"IT IS A PARTICULARLY TIMELY PROJECT WHEN THE COUNCIL IS REVIEWING ITS POLICIES ON HAWKERS," HE SAID.

"COMPUTER TERMINALS ARE BEING INSTALLED AT THE USD HEADQUARTERS, THE TWO HAWKER RECORDS OFFICES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR AND THE 11 DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

"A CENTRAL, ON-LINE DATA-BASE CONTAINING HAWKER LICENCE RECORDS WILL BE SET UP AT THE COUNCIL'S ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING CENTRE."

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EPD INVITES APPLICATION FOR GRANT AND LOAN  
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) IS SENDING OUT LETTERS TO OPERATORS OF FARMS IN STAGE I OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL AREAS INVITING THEM TO APPLY FOR CAPITAL GRANTS AND LOANS.

THE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO FARMERS TO HELP THEM INSTALL APPROPRIATE ON-FARM WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE CONTROL REQUIREMENTS.

THE WASTE DISPOSAL (LIVESTOCK WASTE) REGULATIONS 1988 WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE THREE STAGE I CONTROL AREAS, NAMELY TOLO HARBOUR AND CHANNEL AREA, MUI WO AND ANGLER'S BEACH AREAS, FROM JUNE 24.

AT PRESENT, THE EPD IS PROVIDING AN ADVISORY SERVICE TO LIVESTOCK FARMERS WHO WISH TO STAY IN BUSINESS IN THE ABOVE CONTROL AREAS IN ORDER TO ASSIST THEM IN ADOPTING THE LIVESTOCK WASTE MANAGEMENT METHODS MOST APPROPRIATE TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL FARMS.

FARMERS IN THESE AREAS CAN NOW APPLY FOR CAPITAL GRANTS FROM THE EPD AND LOW INTEREST LOANS FROM THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THE CAPITAL GRANT CAN COVER UP TO 50 PER CENT OF THE CAPITAL COST OF INSTALLING LIVESTOCK WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES, WHILST THE REMAINING 50 PER CENT CAN BE MET BY THE LOAN SCHEME.

ANY FARM OPERATOR WHO HAS OPTED FOR THE CAPITAL GRANT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE WILL BE ALLOWED TO APPLY FOR EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE WITHIN A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS FROM RECEIPT OF THE GRANT IF THE LATER DECIDES TO CEASE BUSINESS.

IN THAT CASE, THE FARMER WILL THEN BE GIVEN THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE AND THE OUTSTANDING LOAN AND GRANT.

TO ENABLE FARMERS AND THE PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND THE DETAILS OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME, AN ADVISORY LEAFLET IS AVAILABLE FROM THE EPD.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 3-7332286, 3-7332292 AND 3-7332285.

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FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES  
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FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF ENHANCED PAYMENTS FOR LARGE FAMILIES ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, ANOTHER PACKAGE OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 1, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE PAYMENT RATES OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME WILL BE INCREASED BY 10 PER CENT. DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

BASIC SCALE RATES PER MONTH  
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FAMILY SIZE -----	CURRENT SCALE (\$) -----	NEW SCALE (\$) -----
SINGLE PERSON	510	560
FAMILY:		
1ST MEMBER	380	420
2ND MEMBER	380	420
3RD MEMBER	370	410
4TH MEMBER	370	410
5TH AND EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER	360	400

CORRESPONDINGLY, OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENTS UNDER THE SCHEME WILL ALSO BE INCREASED.

THE OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT PER MONTH FOR THOSE AGED BELOW 70 WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$255 TO \$280 WHILE THOSE AGED 70 OR ABOVE WILL RECEIVE A BIGGER INCREASE, FROM \$255 TO \$320.

THE DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT WILL LIKEWISE BE INCREASED TO \$280, REPLACING THE EXISTING RATE OF \$255.

THE NEW ANNUAL LONG TERM SUPPLEMENT WILL BE \$710 FOR A SINGLE PERSON; \$1,420 FOR A FAMILY WITH TWO TO FOUR ELIGIBLE MEMBERS AND \$2,130 FOR A FAMILY WITH FIVE OR MORE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS, AS COMPARED WITH THE EXISTING RATES OF \$645, \$1,290 AND \$1,935 RESPECTIVELY.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE SCHEME INCLUDE THE INTRODUCTION OF A HIGHER DISABILITY ALLOWANCE AND A 10 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE RATE OF THE EXISTING "NORMAL" DISABILITY ALLOWANCE.

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THE NORMAL ALLOWANCE RATE WILL BE \$560 AS COMPARED WITH THE EXISTING \$510 WHILE THE HIGHER ALLOWANCE WILL BE \$1,120, OR DOUBLE THE NORMAL RATE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE HIGHER ALLOWANCE IS INTENDED AS ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES WITH SEVERELY DISABLED PERSONS WHO NEED CONSTANT ATTENDANCE, BUT ARE NOT RECEIVING IT IN A GOVERNMENT OR SUBVENTED INSTITUTION.

"TO QUALIFY FOR THIS HIGHER ALLOWANCE, THE RECIPIENT MUST BE AGED 60 OR ABOVE, CERTIFIED TO BE IN NEED OF CONSTANT ATTENDANCE; AND NOT RESIDING IN A GOVERNMENT OR SUBVENTED INSTITUTION.

"HOWEVER, CASES IN PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OR DAY CARE CENTRES ARE ELIGIBLE," HE EXPLAINED.

EXISTING DISABILITY ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS WHO MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THIS HIGHER RATE ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THEIR RESPECTIVE CASEWORKERS.

APPLICATIONS FROM ELIGIBLE PERSONS NOT CURRENTLY IN RECEIPT OF ANY DISABILITY ALLOWANCE CAN BE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S FIELD UNITS.

THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE, WHICH IS AT PRESENT PAYABLE TO THOSE AGED 70 OR ABOVE, WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$255 TO \$320.

IN SEPTEMBER, THE FIRST PHASE OF AN EXTENSION OF THIS ALLOWANCE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED TO COVER THE 68 AND 69 AGE GROUPS. HOWEVER, RECIPIENTS WILL RECEIVE THE NEW NORMAL RATE OF \$280 AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO AN INCOME DECLARATION REQUIREMENT.

FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE ALLOWANCE TO THE 67 AGE GROUP WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM 1989-90. THE 66 AGE GROUP WILL BE COVERED FROM 1990-91 AND THE 65 AGE GROUP FROM 1991-92.

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\$42.68 MILLION EARMARKED FOR DB PROJECTS  
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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO SPEND \$42.68 MILLION IN THE 1988-89 FINANCIAL YEAR TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AND TO RUN COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS.

THE SUM, EARMARKED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS, HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE CNTA'S DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1988-89. THE PROVISION IS \$3.88 MILLION MORE THAN THAT FOR 1987-88.

/SUBJECT TO .....

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SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, \$19.72 MILLION WILL BE ALLOCATED TO THE 10 DISTRICTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON AND \$22.96 MILLION TO THE NINE DISTRICTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN 1987, A TOTAL OF 306 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS WERE IMPLEMENTED BY DISTRICT BOARDS, COMPARED WITH 359 IN 1986 AND 356 IN 1985.

THE PROJECTS INCLUDED THE PROVISION OF SITTING-OUT AREAS, FOOTPATHS, AMENITY SPOTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO MINOR ACCESS ROADS AND PATHS.

THROUGH THE SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION OF AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, ALTOGETHER 4,006 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES WERE IMPLEMENTED IN 1987, COMPARED WITH 2,832 IN 1986 AND 3,015 IN 1985.

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CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS AT PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS  
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OPERATORS OF CARGO VESSELS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT AS WELL AS VEGETABLE MERCHANTS WILL CARRY OUT A SERIES OF CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS AT PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE OPERATIONS ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE CALL BY THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE FOR GREATER PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

TO LAUNCH THE OPERATIONS, A DEMONSTRATIVE CLEAN-UP WILL BE HELD TOMORROW AT THE YAU MA TEI PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA.

A SHORT CEREMONY MARKING THE START OF THIS NEW SERIES OF ACTIVITIES WILL PRECEDE THE CLEAN-UP.

THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE HAS PRINTED A POSTER APPEALING TO USERS OF THESE AREAS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN KEEPING THEM CLEAN.

THE POSTER WILL BE DISPLAYED PROMINENTLY WITHIN PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS.

AN URBAN COUNCILLOR AND MEMBER OF THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE, MR TONG KAM-BIU, WILL BE JOINED BY A SENIOR MARINE OFFICER, MR R.A. KENT, AND FIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF BUSINESS OPERATORS IN TOMORROW'S FUNCTION.

/THE KEEP .....

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THE KEEP PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA CLEAN OPERATION IS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION CAMPAIGN, WHICH HAS ALREADY ENJOYED FAVOURABLE SUPPORT FROM THE PRIVATE SECTORS, INCLUDING PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANISATIONS AND COMMERCIAL CONCERNS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY AND THE DEMONSTRATIVE CLEAN-UP, WHICH ARE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY), BEGINNING AT 3 PM, IN THE YAU MA TEI PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA, FERRY STREET, KOWLOON.

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CLEAN HONG KONG STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

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THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS OF KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS AND TO DISCUSS COMING EVENTS.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR LAUNCHING THE 1988-89 CAMPAIGN IN MAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM IN THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM OF REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SECOND FLOOR, TSUEN WAN MTR STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK, TSUEN WAN.

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SPECIAL STAMPS ON BIRDS

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A SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS FEATURING FOUR SPECIES OF BIRDS FOUND IN HONG KONG WILL BE ISSUED ON APRIL 20, THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE STAMPS, FEATURING THE WHITE-BREADED KINGFISHER, FUKIEN NILTAVA, BLACK KITE AND PIED KINGFISHER, ARE IN DENOMINATIONS OF 50 CENTS, \$1.30, \$1.70 AND \$5 RESPECTIVELY.

/IN ADDITION, .....

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IN ADDITION, A SET OF FOUR POSTCARDS SHOWING AN ENLARGEMENT OF EACH STAMP DESIGN WILL BE ISSUED.

THE STAMPS, DESIGNED BY MISS KAREN PHILLIPPS, WERE PRINTED IN AUSTRALIA BY CPE AUSTRALIA LTD.

THE POST OFFICE, THE HONG KONG PHILATELIC SOCIETY AND THE HONG KONG CHINA PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD A JOINT EXHIBITION OF BIRD STAMPS ISSUED WORLDWIDE.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN PLAZA ON APRIL 9 AND 10, THE CITYPLAZA IN TAIKOO SHING ON APRIL 17, AND THE PHILATELIC CENTRE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AND IN THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE FROM APRIL 11.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS AT 50 CENTS EACH AND POSTCARDS AT \$1 EACH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE ON APRIL 6.

ADVANCE ORDERS FOR FIRST DAY TREATMENT OF FIRST DAY COVERS AND POSTCARDS (IN SETS) WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM APRIL 6 TO 13 AT ALL POST OFFICES.

THE MINIMUM QUANTITY PER ORDER IS FIVE FIRST DAY COVERS AND/OR POSTCARDS. CUSTOMERS WISHING TO AVOID CONGESTION ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE USE OF THIS ADVANCE ORDER SERVICE.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS, FIRST DAY COVERS AND SETS OF POSTCARDS PRE-AFFIXED WITH A SET OF THE STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE PHILATELIC BUREAU DATESTAMP WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT DESIGNATED COUNTERS OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICES ON APRIL 20:

HONG KONG ISLAND  
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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE  
CUASEWAY BAY POST OFFICE  
GENERAL POST OFFICE  
PEAK POST OFFICE  
TSAT TSZ MUI POST OFFICE

KOWLOON  
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AIRPORT POST OFFICE  
CHEUNG SHA WAN POST OFFICE  
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE  
KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE  
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

NEW TERRITORIES .....

NEW TERRITORIES  
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SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE  
TAI PO POST OFFICE  
SHEK WU HUI POST OFFICE  
TSUEN WING STREET POST OFFICE  
TUEN MUN SAN HUI POST OFFICE  
YUEN LONG POST OFFICE

THE "SERVICED" FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE SOLD AT \$10 EACH AND  
THE "SERVICED" POSTCARDS AT \$13.50 PER SET.

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SECOND JOB BAZAAR IN MAY

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS ORGANISING A SECOND JOB BAZAAR, ON  
HONG KONG ISLAND, IN MAY.

THIS FOLLOWS THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST BAZAAR HELD IN THE NEW  
TOWN PLAZA, SHA TIN, TWO MONTHS AGO.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE SECOND JOB BAZAAR WOULD BE  
HELD AT CITYPLAZA, TAIKOO SHING, BETWEEN MAY 28 AND 31.

THE VENUE IS EXPECTED TO ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 20 PARTICIPATING  
COMPANIES.

EMPLOYERS WHO WISH TO TAKE PART IN THE EVENT ARE ADVISED TO  
CONTACT THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

ENQUIRIES CAN ALSO BE MADE ON 5-8524157.

THE SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED THE JOB BAZAAR AS A NEW CONCEPT  
INTRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO HELP EMPLOYERS PUBLICISE THEIR JOB  
OPPORTUNITIES AND TO ATTRACT MORE JOB-SEEKERS TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT.

SIXTEEN FIRMS REPRESENTING 13 TRADES AND INDUSTRIES TOOK PART  
IN THE FIRST JOB BAZAAR.

"IT WAS WELL RECEIVED BY BOTH EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS AS IT  
PROVIDED AN ARRAY OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER LABOUR MARKET  
INFORMATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/"IT ALSO .....

- 17 -

"IT ALSO BROUGHT ABOUT AN IMMEDIATE, CORDIAL AND DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS, THEREBY REDUCING THE TIME IT TAKES TO FILL VACANT POSTS OR TO FIND EMPLOYMENT."

DURING THE THREE-DAY PERIOD, MORE THAN 75,700 APPLICATION FORMS WERE DISTRIBUTED BY THE PARTICIPATING COMPANIES, 9,100 ENQUIRIES WERE RECORDED, 510 ON-THE-SPOT INTERVIEWS WERE CONDUCTED, AND 410 FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEWS WERE ARRANGED.

"IN VIEW OF THE VERY FAVOURABLE RESPONSE, THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT WORTHWHILE FOR A SECOND BAZAAR TO BE ORGANISED ON HONG KONG ISLAND SO AS TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND STAFF RECRUITMENT IN THE URBAN AREAS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT THE EVENT WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS SOLVING THE LABOUR SHORTAGE PROBLEM."

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#### CLEARANCES IN WAN CHAI

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A TOTAL OF 21 ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN WAN CHAI WERE DEMOLISHED IN TWO ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE OPERATIONS CO-ORDINATED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE PAST WEEK.

THE CLEARANCES, CARRIED OUT LAST FRIDAY AND TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN STAR STREET AND AT A REAR LANE IN MORRISON HILL ROAD, WERE THE LAST TWO OF SUCH OPERATIONS IN THE DISTRICT FOR 1987-88.

SIX CLEARANCES HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT IN THE PAST YEAR.

A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES DEMOLISHED IN THE TWO OPERATIONS WERE USED FOR BOTH STORAGE AND DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

TWENTY-FOUR PEOPLE WERE AFFECTED BY THE EXERCISE, AND RE-HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE, HE ADDED.

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APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR TAI PO DRAGON BOAT RACE

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APPLICATIONS ARE BEING INVITED FOR TEAMS TO TAKE PART IN THE TAI PO DRAGON BOAT RACE ON JUNE 18 TO CELEBRATE THE TUEN NG FESTIVAL.

THE RACE IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT DRAGON BOAT RACE COMMITTEE AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD.

THE RACE WILL BE DIVIDED INTO MEN'S OPEN, WOMEN'S OPEN, MIXED INVITATION AND INDUSTRIAL CUP SECTIONS AND WILL TAKE PLACE ALONG THE WATERFRONT BY THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IN THE MORNING.

EACH TEAM SHOULD CONSIST OF 27 MEMBERS COMPRISING 24 PADDLERS, DRUMMER, GONG-BEATER AND COXSWAIN.

COMPETING TEAMS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH DRAGON BOATS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AND WILL BE ALLOCATED PRACTICE TIME.

LETTERS WILL BE SENT TO VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS TO INVITE THEIR PARTICIPATION.

APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM APRIL 6 AT THE OFFICE OF THE TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE AT 1 HEUNG SZE WUI STREET, THE TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION'S LI FOOK LAM INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE AT 2 ON CHEUNG ROAD AND THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AT 1 TING KOK ROAD.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 30. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 0-65771111, EXT 254 OR 258.

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POSTFAX SERVICE EXTENDED TO KENYA

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POSTFAX SERVICE, A JOINT POST OFFICE AND CABLE AND WIRELESS (HK) LTD PUBLIC FACSIMILE SERVICE, WILL BE EXTENDED TO KENYA FROM FRIDAY (APRIL 1), THE POST OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED.

POSTFAX ITEMS HANDED IN AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BEFORE 6 PM WILL BE ACCORDED SAME-DAY DELIVERY IN MOMBASA AND NAIROBI.

DOCUMENTS (HANDWRITTEN OR TYPED), DRAWINGS AND DIAGRAMS UP TO A4 SIZE WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR TRANSMISSION.

ALL POSTFAX ITEMS ARE HANDLED WITH CARE AND IN CONFIDENCE.

/THE CHARGES .....

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THE CHARGES FOR THE SERVICE ARE:

"SHORT MESSAGE" FACILITY	\$60
FOR THE FIRST SIDE OF AN A4 DOCUMENT	\$75
FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT A4 SIDE SENT TO THE SAME ADDRESSEE AT THE SAME TIME	\$30

CUSTOMERS WISHING TO MAKE USE OF THIS SERVICE CAN HAND IN THEIR DOCUMENTS AT ANY ONE OF THE 30 ACCEPTANCE POST OFFICES OR THE TWO CABLE AND WIRELESS SALES OFFICES AT EXCHANGE SQUARE AND HERMES HOUSE.

POSTFAX SERVICE OFFERS HIGH-SPEED FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND OVER 70 COUNTRIES.

ALL THE IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNERS OF HONG KONG ARE INCLUDED IN THE SERVICE NETWORK, SUCH AS THE U.S.A., THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, CHINA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

FOR SPEEDIER TRANSMISSION AND AT NO EXTRA COST, FACSIMILE MACHINE OWNERS IN HONG KONG CAN FAX THEIR MESSAGES TO THE POST OFFICE UNDER SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ONWARD TRANSMISSION TO ADDRESSEES ABROAD WHO DO NOT HAVE THEIR OWN FACSIMILE EQUIPMENT.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SERVICE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE POSTFAX MANAGER ON 5-8471148.

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GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER  
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A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND ON HONG KONG ISLAND IS TO BE LET BY TENDER ON SHORT TERM TENANCY BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

MEASURING ABOUT 1,730 SQUARE METRES, THE LAND AT WAN SHING STREET, WAN CHAI, IS FOR COMMERCIAL GARDEN PURPOSE.

THE TENANCY IS FOR NINE MONTHS, RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

TENDER FORM AND NOTICE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG WEST, 12TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 15.

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/20 .....

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HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICE  
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EIGHT GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL STAY OPEN DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS AND CHING MING FESTIVAL BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND APRIL 5.

THE EIGHT CLINICS WHICH WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ARE THE VIOLET PEEL HEALTH CENTRE AND SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND; KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE AND YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN KOWLOON; AND THE LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC, YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE AND SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ALL OTHER OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED.

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHING MING  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES DURING THE CHING MING FESTIVAL PERIOD.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, BETWEEN 4 AM AND 8 PM FROM APRIL 1 TO 5 AND ON APRIL 10 AND 17, THE SECTION OF WO HOP SHEK ROAD FROM WO HOP SHEK MINI-ROUNDAABOUT TO THE JUNCTION OF ROAD D6, KIU TAU ROAD AND THE SECTION OF WO HOP SHEK ROAD BEYOND ITS JUNCTION WITH ROAD D6 WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

FROM 7 AM TO 6 PM ON THE SAME DAYS, THE SLIP ROAD AT WO HOP SHEK CONNECTION FROM NORTHBOUND NT CIRCULAR ROAD LEADING TO WO HOP SHEK MINI-ROUNDAABOUT, FANLING PLAYGROUND ROAD, AND THE FANLING KCR FORECOURT AT ITS ACCESS FROM ROAD D5 WILL ALSO BE CLOSED.

IN TSUEN WAN, LO WAI ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 7 AM AND 4 PM FROM APRIL 1 TO 5 AND ON APRIL 10. THE LO WAI END TERMINATING POINT FOR NT GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES NO. 81 AND 81M WILL BE RELOCATED TO THE LO WAI BUS TERMINUS.

FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM ON THE SAME DAYS, WING SHUN STREET BETWEEN TSUEN WAN CEMETERY AND KWAI HEI STREET IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT HEARSES AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

/AS ROAD .....

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AS ROAD CLOSURE MEASURES WILL BE ENFORCED BY POLICE OFFICERS AT THE JUNCTION OF WING SHUN STREET, KWAI HEI STREET AND KWAI YUE STREET, GRAVE-SWEEPERS ARE ADVISED TO TAKE THE MTR AND GET OFF AT KWAI FONG STATION.

TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW ON TAI SHU HA NULLAH-BUND ROAD IN YUEN LONG DURING THE CHING MING FESTIVAL, THE NORTHERN NULLAH-BUND ROAD FROM TAI KEI LENG TO TAI SHU HA WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND, WHILE THE SOUTHERN NULLAH-BUND ROAD WILL BECOME ONE-WAY WESTBOUND FROM 7 AM TO 10 PM ON APRIL 4 (MONDAY).

AS A RESULT, NEW TERRITORIES GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NO. 73 WILL HAVE TO TRAVEL ALONG THE SOUTHERN NULLAH-BUND ROAD ON ITS JOURNEYS TO YUEN LONG TOWN.

IN SHAM SHUI PO, WING MING STREET WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM FROM APRIL 1 TO 5. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ON-STREET PARKING SPACES IN YEE KUK WEST STREET, YU CHAU WEST STREET, KING LAM STREET, WING HONG STREET AND TAI NAN WEST STREET WILL BE SUSPENDED.

DURING THE CLOSURE, GRAVE-SWEEPERS GOING TO THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY ARE ADVISED TO USE CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YEE KUK WEST STREET AND KING LAM STREET.

MOTORISTS GOING TO HAMMER HILL CEMETERY IN WONG TAI SIN WILL HAVE TO USE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, PO KONG VILLAGE INTERCHANGE AND PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD.

ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, BOTH KCR AND KMB WILL STEP UP THEIR SERVICES DURING THE FESTIVAL PERIOD. ON APRIL 3, 4, 10 AND 17, TWO SPECIAL KMB ROUTES NO. 70R AND 70S WILL OPERATE RESPECTIVELY FROM FANLING KCR STATION AND JORDAN ROAD FERRY BUS TERMINUS TO WO HOP SHEK.

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