



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1993

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GOVERNOR TO SET OUT POSITION IN ELECTION TALKS TO LEGCO

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON HE WOULD BE SETTING OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE TALKS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW, WITH THE HOPE THAT HONG KONG COULD STILL PROCEED BY AGREEMENT TO PUT IN PLACE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTRE, MR PATTEN SAID: "WE'VE OBVIOUSLY BEEN DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES WITH GREAT SINCERITY IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL JUST AS WE DID IN LONDON.

"WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO PUT IN PLACE, AS THE GOVERNMENT, ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR ELECTIONS IN HONG KONG. WE WOULD LIKE TO DO THAT AS A RESULT OF AGREEMENT WITH CHINESE AUTHORITIES IN THE CHINESE SIDE. BUT I HAVE TO SAY THAT THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN VERY EASY."

NOTING THAT 17 ROUNDS OF TALKS HAD TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT REACHING AGREEMENT ON AS MANY ISSUES AS THE COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE, THE GOVERNOR SAID THERE WERE SOME ISSUES WHICH HAD NOT BEEN AGREED WHICH HE COULD NOT BELIEVE THE COMMUNITY WOULD REGARD AS BEING CONTROVERSIAL.

"BUT OBVIOUSLY I'LL BE SETTING OUT WHAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THINK IS THE BEST WAY AHEAD TOMORROW AND HOPING THAT WE CAN STILL PROCEED BY AGREEMENT TO DISCHARGE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO PUT IN PLACE AS THE JOINT DECLARATION SAYS, AS THE BASIC LAW SAYS, ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH ARE FAIR AND ENSURE THAT WE HAVE PROPER FOUNDATIONS FOR THE RULE OF LAW HERE IN HONG KONG FOR THE FUTURE," HE ADDED.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OF MR ALEX TSUI BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS NOT SURE THE COMMUNITY WOULD THINK IT WAS PARTICULARLY WISE FOR LEGCO TO GET INVOLVED IN PARTICULAR CASES OR IN SOME SECOND GUESS, PARTICULAR MANAGEMENT DECISIONS.

"WHAT I FEEL VERY STRONGLY IS THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY, HAVE TO RECOGNISE THAT WE NEED TO TAKE STRONG MEASURES TO DEAL WITH CORRUPTION AND THE THREAT OF CORRUPTION," HE SAID.

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RULES TO COMBAT DRUG MONEY LAUNDERING

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE TWO BILLS TO AMEND THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE AND THE COMMODITIES TRADING ORDINANCE TO FACILITATE THE COMBAT AGAINST DRUG MONEY LAUNDERING IN THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES MARKETS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR TAM WING-PONG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/THE BILLS .....

THE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 15.

THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE, WHICH CAME INTO FORCE IN SEPTEMBER 1989, PRESCRIBES THAT DRUG MONEY LAUNDERING CONSTITUTES A CRIMINAL OFFENCE AND CONTAINS PROVISIONS FOR TRACING, FREEZING AND CONFISCATING DRUG TRAFFICKING PROCEEDS.

THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF), AN INTERNATIONAL BODY ESTABLISHED IN 1989, HAS PUT FORWARD 40 RECOMMENDATIONS AIMED AT MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL EFFORTS AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN FIGHTING DRUG MONEY LAUNDERING.

FATF RECOMMENDS THAT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SHOULD DEVELOP MEASURES AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING SUCH AS INTERNAL ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND CONTROLS AND ON-GOING EMPLOYEE TRAINING.

IN HONG KONG, THE MONETARY AUTHORITY HAS ISSUED GUIDELINES ON PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS IN COUNTERING AND REPORTING SUSPECTED MONEY LAUNDERING TRANSACTIONS.

BREACHES OF GUIDELINES MAY LEAD TO DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

"THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC) WILL PROMULGATE RULES FOR THE SAME PURPOSES AND UNCERTAINTIES UNDER THE EXISTING LAW WILL HAVE TO BE REMOVED TO FACILITATE THE PROCESS," MR TAM SAID.

THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE EMPOWERS THE SFC TO MAKE RULES IN RESPECT OF THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS OF PERSONS REGISTERED UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

THERE IS NO CORRESPONDING PROVISION IN THE COMMODITIES TRADING ORDINANCE. THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL WILL RECTIFY THIS DISPARITY.

UNDER THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE, THE SFC CAN ALSO TAKE ACTION AGAINST A REGISTERED PERSON FOUNDS, INTER ALIA, GUILTY OF MISCONDUCT.

POSSIBLE ACTIONS INCLUDE A REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION OR A REPRIMAND.

IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER MISCONDUCT INCLUDES A BREACH OF RULES MADE BY THE SFC SUCH AS THOSE RELATING TO DRUG MONEY LAUNDERING. SIMILAR POTENTIAL AMBIGUITIES ALSO EXIST IN THE COMMODITIES TRADING ORDINANCE.

"TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG CAN IMPLEMENT THE FATF RECOMMENDATIONS IN RELATION TO INSTITUTIONS IN THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES INDUSTRIES, THE BILLS WILL CLARIFY THAT FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH RULES MADE BY THE SFC CONSTITUTES A 'MISCONDUCT'," MR TAM SAID.

"THE AMENDMENTS CONTEMPLATED, THOUGH SIMPLE IN NATURE, WILL MAKE SURE THAT THE SFC CAN EFFECTIVELY ENFORCE RULES TO BE MADE FOR THE COMBAT AGAINST DRUG MONEY LAUNDERING IN THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES MARKETS," MR TAM ADDED.

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UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS AGAINST LIBYA

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THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION 883 ON NOVEMBER 11, IMPOSING A RANGE OF SANCTIONS AGAINST LIBYA.

THE RESOLUTION COMES INTO FORCE TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPECIFIC POWERS FOR THE BETTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTION BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED IN A UNITED KINGDOM ORDER IN COUNCIL WHICH COMES INTO FORCE TODAY.

THE ORDER RE-ENACTS, WITH CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS, THE PROVISIONS OF THE LIBYA (UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS) (DEPENDENT TERRITORIES) ORDER 1992 (S.I. 1992/976).

IT IMPOSES RESTRICTIONS ON THE EXPORT TO LIBYA, AND THE SUPPLY TO PERSONS CONNECTED WITH LIBYA OF FURTHER GOODS, INCLUDING CERTAIN OIL INDUSTRY EQUIPMENT AND AIRFIELD INFRASTRUCTURE.

THE ORDER RESTRICTS CERTAIN ACTIVITIES INCLUDING THE TRAINING OF LIBYAN PILOTS AND OTHER AVIATION PERSONNEL.

IT ALSO PLACES RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN ACTIONS MAKING AVAILABLE OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRING CERTAIN FUNDS OR OTHER FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO OR FOR THE BENEFIT OF CERTAIN PERSONS CONNECTED WITH LIBYA.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT FULLY ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE ORDER IN COUNCIL.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL AND PRESS ENQUIRIES:  
DUTY OFFICER, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
(TEL 842 8747)

TRADE RELATED MATTERS:  
TRADE DEPARTMENT  
(TEL 398 5556 OR 398 5572)  
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT  
(TEL 852 3303)

MARINE MATTERS:  
MARINE DEPARTMENT  
(TEL 852 4603 OR 852 4538)

FLIGHTS AND AVIATION RELATED MATTERS:  
CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT  
(TEL 867 4210 OR 867 4211)

FINANCIAL RELATED MATTERS:  
FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH  
(TEL 528 2139 OR 527 1893)

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SWITCH TO COAL BENEFITS CONSUMERS

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ELECTRICITY TARIFFS ARE NOW SOME 40 PER CENT LOWER IN REAL TERMS THAN THOSE IN 1983 WITH THE SWITCH TO COAL, SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

SPEAKING AT THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY CONFERENCE ON THE CLEAN AND EFFICIENT USE OF COAL AND LIGNITE, MR SIU SAID THIS HAD BEEN OF GREAT BENEFIT TO CONSUMERS.

"SUCCESSIVE OIL CRISES POINTED US TOWARDS COAL AS A FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION," HE SAID.

"TWELVE YEARS AGO, PRACTICALLY NO COAL WAS USED FOR POWER GENERATION IN HONG KONG.

"NOW, SOME 90 PER CENT OF THE ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY OUR POWER COMPANIES IS FUELLED BY COAL," HE ADDED.

MR SIU SAID THE SWITCH HAD BROUGHT ABOUT A GREATER SECURITY FOR ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, WHICH WAS IMPORTANT CONSIDERING THAT ELECTRICITY ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 38 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMED IN HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHARED THE INCREASING GLOBAL CONCERN OVER THE THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT POSED BY THE BURNING OF FOSSIL FUELS.

"EVERY COMMUNITY WHICH USES COAL HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO INVEST IN ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE WAYS OF USING IT," MR SIU SAID.

"HONG KONG IS PLAYING ITS PART," HE SAID.

"MUCH WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE BY THE POWER COMPANIES AND THE GOVERNMENT TO MINIMISE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF EXISTING GASEOUS AND PARTICULATE EMISSIONS FROM POWER STATIONS.

"ANY NEW GENERATING UNITS FUELLED BY COAL ARE REQUIRED TO BE FITTED WITH FLUE GAS DESULPHURISATION FACILITIES," HE SAID.

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DB ELECTION FORUM IN WONG UK

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THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE AND THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE WILL HOLD A FORUM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) FOR THE THREE CANDIDATES CONTESTING THE DISTRICT BOARD WONG UK CONSTITUENCY SEAT.

THE FORUM WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM AT THE MAIN HALL OF THE CHURCH OF ST BENEDICT, 7 KONG PUI STREET, WONG UK.

A REO SPOKESMAN SAID THE FORUM WAS TO ENABLE ELECTORS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES BEFORE CASTING THEIR VOTES IN THE BY-ELECTION ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 5).

HE APPEALED TO ELECTORS AND RESIDENTS IN THE WONG UK CONSTITUENCY TO ATTEND THE FORUM, DURING WHICH THE CANDIDATES WILL PRESENT THEIR PLATFORMS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

THE CANDIDATES ARE MR LEUNG CHI-WAI, A 40-YEAR-OLD PROPERTY MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE; MR VINCENT WONG KENG-CHUEN, A 33-YEAR-OLD UNIVERSITY LECTURER; AND MR WONG YIU-SANG, A 35-YEAR-OLD ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER.

THE WONG UK CONSTITUENCY COVERS SHA TIN WAI, BELAIR GARDENS, SHA TIN PARK, RIVERA GARDEN, SPRINGFAIR GARDEN, CHUEN FAI CENTRE, GREEN LEAVES GARDEN, GREENFIELD COURT, LAI SHING GARDEN, GREENWOOD GARDEN, PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL, FUI YIU HA, WONG UK, AND TSE UK.

IT HAS A TOTAL OF 6,015 REGISTERED ELECTORS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ELECTION FORUM.

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CAD CO-ORDINATES ANNUAL SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE

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A FOUR-DAY SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE CO-ORDINATED ANNUALLY BY THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT HAS STARTED YESTERDAY (TUESDAY).

THE EXERCISE INVOLVES THE DISPLAY OF SEARCH AND RESCUE AIRCRAFT, A SYMPOSIUM, A SHORT-RANGE AND A LONG-RANGE DEMONSTRATION AND A MOUNTAIN RESCUE EXERCISE.

A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND EMERGENCY UNITS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE EXERCISE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF THE EXERCISE WAS TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND FAMILIARISATION IN SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNIQUES FOR STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER RESCUE UNITS.

PERSONNEL FROM OTHER PARTICIPATING UNITS FROM THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION INVOLVED IN SUCH OPERATIONS WILL ALSO BENEFIT FROM THE EXERCISE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE ALERTING AND CO-ORDINATING PROCEDURES AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES WOULD BE TESTED.

/IN ADDITION, .....

IN ADDITION, THE EXERCISE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES TO CO-ORDINATE THEIR PROCEDURES.

THE EXERCISE COMPRISES A SHORT-RANGE AND A LONG-RANGE SEARCH OPERATION INVOLVING FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, HELICOPTERS AND VESSELS PLUS A SERIES OF GROUND-BASED SUPPORTING SERVICES.

THE SHORT-RANGE EXERCISE WAS HELD THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON IN TSO WO HANG, SAI KUNG SIMULATING A DISTRESS AIRCRAFT DITCHING WITH A DEMONSTRATION OF WINCHING "SURVIVORS" FROM THE SEA ONTO HELICOPTERS.

THE LONG-RANGE EXERCISE WILL BE ACTIVATED THIS EVENING, SIMULATING AN AIRCRAFT IN DISTRESS ABOUT 100 KILOMETERS SOUTH-WEST OF HONG KONG. AIRCRAFT, HELICOPTERS AND SHIPS WILL BE DESPATCHED TO SEARCH AND LOCATE THE TARGETS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

TAKING PART IN THIS YEAR'S EXERCISE ARE THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, MARINE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICE, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND NAVY, JAPANESE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY, ROYAL NAVY, MARINE POLICE, CIVIL AID SERVICES, FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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#### DOCTORS HELP IMPROVE DRUG ABUSE REPORTING SYSTEM

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR ALASDAIR SINCLAIR, APPEALED TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS TO REPORT DRUG ABUSE CASES THEY ENCOUNTERED.

IT WILL HELP THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE OF NARCOTICS DIVISION ACHIEVE ITS GOALS TO THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE EXTENT, HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR FOR 40 MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT THIS AFTERNOON, MR SINCLAIR SAID: "THE MONITORING OF THE LOCAL DRUG SCENE IS NOT COMPLETE WITHOUT INPUT FROM DOCTORS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE."

"INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM DOCTORS WILL HELP OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF DRUG ABUSERS WHO MAY NOT BE OTHERWISE KNOWN TO US.

"THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION IS USEFUL SINCE IT BRINGS TO LIGHT ANY INADEQUACY OF TREATMENT PROGRAMMES IN CATERING FOR A PARTICULAR GROUP AND IT ALSO HELPS US OBTAIN A FULLER PICTURE OF THE LOCAL DRUG SCENE," HE ADDED.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AND THE HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, THE SEMINAR WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO SEEK SUPPORT FROM MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE.

/OTHER SPEAKERS .....

OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDED DR BENJAMIN LAI, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS AND MR ANTHONY CHAN, CHIEF PHARMACIST OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

THE NARCOTICS DIVISION WILL ARRANGE SIMILAR SEMINARS IN THE COMING MONTHS FOR TEACHERS, STUDENTS OF COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WORKERS AND STUDENT SOCIAL WORKERS.

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### HK YOUTH BAND FESTIVAL

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY A SERIES OF BAND MUSIC CONCERTS PERFORMED BY LOCAL YOUNG MUSICIANS DURING THE 1993 HONG KONG YOUTH BAND FESTIVAL TO BE HELD FROM DECEMBER 23 TO 28.

THE FESTIVAL WAS ORGANISED ANNUALLY BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SINCE 1979, AIMING TO CULTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE'S INTEREST IN BAND MUSIC AND IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL BAND PLAYERS.

IT ALSO PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS YOUNG MUSICIANS TO EXCHANGE THEIR EXPERIENCES.

STUDENTS FROM NEARLY 30 SCHOOL BANDS WILL JOIN HANDS WITH THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND AND DISTRICT YOUTH SYMPHONIC BANDS OF THE MUSIC OFFICE TO PRESENT A SERIES OF CONCERTS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUSIC OFFICE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE ALEXANDRA HILLS STATE HIGH SCHOOL WIND ORCHESTRA FROM AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN INVITED AS THE GUEST PERFORMER OF THE FESTIVAL.

THE BAND COMPRISES OF 55 MEMBERS, AGED BETWEEN 13 AND 17 AND WILL BE LED BY THEIR MUSIC DIRECTOR, SCOTT STRACHAU.

DURING THE FESTIVAL, FOUR CHRISTMAS CONCERTS WILL BE STAGED AT HENG ON SHOPPING CENTRE, METRO PLAZA AT KWAI FONG, LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE PHASE II AND LANDMARK FROM DECEMBER 24 TO 27.

APART FROM A SERIES OF CONCERTS, THERE WILL ALSO BE A SYMPHONIC BAND CONTEST AND A MARCHING BAND CONTEST FOR LOCAL WIND BANDS AND MARCHING BANDS ON DECEMBER 23 AND 27 RESPECTIVELY.

THE CLIMAX OF THE FESTIVAL WILL BE A CONCERT HELD AT SHA TIN TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM AT 7.30 PM ON DECEMBER 28.

AUDIENCES WILL BE TREATED WITH VARIOUS KINDS OF BAND MUSIC INCLUDING JAZZ, ROCK, CLASSICAL AND THEME SONGS FROM FAMOUS MOVIES.

TICKETS FOR THE FESTIVAL CONCERT AT \$30 AND \$40 EACH ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL URBTIX OUTLETS.

/HALF-PRICE TICKETS .....

HALF-PRICE TICKETS WOULD ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS AGED 60 OR ABOVE.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS FOR THE TWO CONTESTS ARE AVAILABLE ON FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 399 2196 OR 796 7537.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,970
REVERSAL OF LAF	+30
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-520
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,480
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.9 *+0.1* 1.12.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.42 PCT	15 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.25	3.71
1 MONTH	2.80 PCT	18 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.70	4.00
3 MONTHS	3.01 PCT	21 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.77	4.19
6 MONTHS	3.17 PCT	24 MONTHS	2511	4.15	99.69	4.36
12 MONTHS	3.54 PCT	35 MONTHS	3610	4.20	98.44	4.84

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 25,384MN

CLOSED 1 DECEMBER 1993

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ICAC SERVED BY SOUND MEN: CS

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THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION MUST NOT BE INHIBITED FROM TERMINATING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN OFFICER IN WHOM HE HAD LOST CONFIDENCE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS CHAN SAID WHILE THE EXECUTIVE SHOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATURE, IT COULD NOT BE RIGHT, IN HER VIEW, THAT THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD REQUIRE THE EXECUTIVE TO EXPLAIN DECISIONS AFFECTING THE APPOINTMENT, DISCIPLINE AND REMOVAL OF INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS.

SHE WAS SPEAKING AT THE MOTION DEBATE UNDER THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (POWERS AND PRIVILEGES) ORDINANCE ON ENQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE TERMINATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF MR ALEX TSUI KA-KIT, SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HOLDING THE POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OPERATIONS OF THE ICAC.

"WE BELIEVE IN ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT BUT WE CANNOT AGREE TO THE LEGISLATURE AND ITS PANELS EXERCISING THE JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS OF A COURT TO DETERMINE A MATTER WHICH IS CLEARLY WITHIN THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE," SHE SAID.

THE COMMISSION HAS SO FAR EXERCISED THE POWER OF SUMMARY DISMISSAL ON 58 OCCASIONS.

"AND OFFICERS CAN BE IN NO DOUBT THAT THE POWER WILL BE EXERCISED IF THE COMMISSIONER THINKS NECESSARY," SHE SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID ALL THESE DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY BY THE COMMISSIONER.

SHE SAID THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT IMPOSED UPON OFFICERS IN THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES INCLUDING THE ICAC WERE MOST RIGOROUS AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY DEPARTURE FROM THOSE STANDARDS MAY INCLUDE SUMMARY DISMISSAL WITHOUT ASSIGNING ANY REASON.

"WHEN OFFICERS JOIN THE ICAC THEY ARE MADE FULLY AWARE OF THE STANDARDS EXPECTED OF THEM AND OF THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES IF THEY CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN A WAY WHICH CAUSES THE COMMISSIONER TO LOSE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR INTEGRITY OR WHICH MAY PREJUDICE THE OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION," MRS CHAN SAID.

HOWEVER, SHE SAID SHE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXERCISING THE POWER OF DISMISSAL PLACED A HEAVY BURDEN ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE COMMISSIONER ALONE TO BEAR.

"WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TO REVIEW THE DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING ICAC STAFF. IN THIS CONTEXT WE WILL CONSIDER THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS."

MRS CHAN SAID IF THE MOTION WAS PASSED, SHE SHOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER WHETHER THE PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIRED THAT SOME INFORMATION ON MR TSUI'S CASE SHOULD BE WITHHELD FROM THE SECURITY PANEL.

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IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, SHE SHOULD BE SEEKING URGENT GUIDANCE FROM LEGCO PRESIDENT ON HOW A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY SHOULD BE DETERMINED.

"IF IT IS CONCLUDED THAT THE WITHHOLDING OF INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE PROPER FUNCTIONING OF THE ICAC THEN THE EFFECT OF THIS MOTION WILL BE TO PERMIT MR TSUI UNDER THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (POWERS AND PRIVILEGES) ORDINANCE TO MAKE UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS AGAINST OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ICAC WHICH THE COMMISSIONER CANNOT, CONSISTENT WITH THE WIDER PUBLIC INTEREST, EXPLAIN OR REBUT."

MRS CHAN SAID THE BATTLE AGAINST CORRUPTION WAS A CONTINUING ONE IN WHICH THE SERVICES OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ICAC ARE DEPENDED UPON.

"THERE MUST BE NO REASON TO DOUBT THEIR SOUNDNESS," SHE SAID.

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## CS DISAPPOINTED BY MOTION OUTCOME

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT SHE WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE OUTCOME OF A MOTION PASSED BY LEGISLATORS TO CONDUCT HEARINGS ON THE TERMINATION BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF MR ALEX TSUI KA-KIT LAST MONTH.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING, MRS CHAN SAID SHE DOUBTED IF THE HEARINGS THAT MEMBERS WISHED TO CONDUCT WOULD HELP CLARIFY WHETHER THE TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT WAS LEGITIMATE OR NOT.

"ON THE CONTRARY, I THINK, IT WILL ONLY SERVE TO MUDDY THE WATERS AS SEVERAL MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY POINTED OUT DURING THE DEBATE," SHE SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT AT A TIME WHEN THERE APPEARED TO BE AN INCREASE IN CORRUPTION CASES, THE PUBLIC WOULD BE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED IF ANY PUBLIC HEARING WOULD UNDERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ICAC.

"THE PUBLIC HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE WORK OF THE ICAC AND SURELY AT THIS POINT IN TIME, GIVEN THE PUBLIC CONCERN, EVERYBODY SHOULD BE GIVING THE ICAC EVERY SUPPORT THAT IT POSSIBLY CAN," SHE ADDED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID GIVEN THE VERY SPECIAL TASK GIVEN TO THE ICAC TO ADDRESS A PARTICULARLY SERIOUS PROBLEM OVER WHICH THAT THE PUBLIC WAS VERY CONCERNED, THE COMMISSIONER HAD ACTED FULLY WITHIN THE STATUTORY POWERS CONFERRED UPON HIM.

MRS CHAN SAID WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE MOTION, SHE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT THE COMMISSIONER AND CONSIDER TOGETHER WITH HIM WHETHER IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST CERTAIN INFORMATION ON MR TSUI SHOULD BE WITHHELD.

IF IT WAS SO, SHE SAID SHE WOULD SEEK GUIDANCE FROM LEGCO PRESIDENT AS TO HOW THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CLAIM IMMUNITY.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1993

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LANDMARK DAY IN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, DESCRIBED AT THE MOTION DEBATE ON SEWAGE CHARGES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THAT TODAY WAS A LANDMARK DAY IN THE HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO PUSH FORWARD A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME TO TACKLE WATER POLLUTION.

THE COMMUNITY HAS SIGNALLED ITS READINESS; INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ARE FACING UP TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES; THE MEDIA ARE WITH IT AND MANY LEGCO MEMBERS TOO, HE SAID.

HE SAID MEMBERS SHOWED SUPPORT FOR THE POLLUTER-PAYS PRINCIPLE, NOT JUST AS A MATTER OF COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, BUT AS A MESSAGE TO THE WORLD THAT THEY WERE TAKING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY.

ON THE SEWAGE CHARGING SCHEME, MR EASON SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE DETERMINED EFFORTS TO KEEP DOMESTIC CHARGES DOWN TO ALMOST NOMINAL LEVELS.

HOUSEHOLDS CONSUME MORE THAN 50 PER CENT OF THE WATER SUPPLY AND WILL BE CONTRIBUTING ONLY 30 PER CENT OF THE CHARGING REVENUE, WHILE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WILL CONTRIBUTE 60 PER CENT.

HE SAID TO PERMIT FURTHER EXEMPTIONS WOULD BE TO MOVE SO FAR FROM THE POLLUTER-PAYS PRINCIPLE AS TO NEGATE IT.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO SUGGESTION THAT DOMESTIC USERS WERE TO BE CRITICISED OR PENALISED FOR USING THE SEWAGE SERVICE.

"THEIR NEED FOR IT IS A FACT OF LIFE, BUT IT DOES COST MONEY TO PROVIDE AND HAS TO BE PAID FOR.

"TO EXEMPT ONE MAJOR GROUP OF USERS WOULD LOAD THE COSTS ONTO OTHERS AND WOULD WITHOUT DOUBT MAKE ALL THOSE NOW WILLING TO PAY HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS," HE SAID.

HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN THOROUGH CONSULTATION ON THE CHARGING PROPOSALS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BRIEFED THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE LEGCO ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS PANEL TWICE, MAJOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS, THE MAIN POLITICAL GROUPS AS WELL AS THE MAIN GREEN GROUPS AND A NUMBER OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

"WE HAVE GIVEN NUMEROUS TELEVISION AND PRESS INTERVIEWS AND PARTICIPATED IN RADIO PHONE-IN PROGRAMMES AND RTHK PANEL DISCUSSIONS.

"MOREOVER, WE HAVE ARRANGED THE BROADCAST OF ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST ON TELEVISION AND RADIO, AND WE HAVE DISTRIBUTED 100,000 PAMPHLETS EXPLAINING THE CHARGING SCHEME. ALL THIS HAS GENERATED SUBSTANTIAL MEDIA COVERAGE."

/HE ALSO .....

HE ALSO NOTED THAT IN THE WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED, A MAJORITY (60 PER CENT) SUPPORT THE POLLUTER-PAYS PRINCIPLE.

MOST OF THE GROUP SUBMISSIONS, PARTICULARLY THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS, SUPPORT BOTH THE PRINCIPLE AND THE CHARGING PROPOSALS.

THERE IS ALSO MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE AMONG THE INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS.

SOME SUBMISSIONS DID ASK FOR FURTHER CONCESSIONS ON DOMESTIC CHARGES, POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF A MISUNDERSTANDING THAT SEWAGE CHARGES WOULD BE CALCULATED AT A FIXED RATE OF WATER BILLS.

"THIS IS NOT THE CASE, AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE FURTHER EXPLANATIONS TO CLEAR UP SUCH MISUNDERSTANDINGS," MR EASON SAID.

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MOTION DEBATE ON SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES  
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THE FOLLOWING IS THE SPEECH BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, DR S H LEE, AT THE MOTION DEBATE ON SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING:

MADAM DEPUTY,

THE FAMILY IS THE CORNER-STONE OF SOCIETY. HERE IN HONG KONG WE HAVE A STRONG TRADITION OF FAMILY WHERE CHILDREN ARE BROUGHT UP IN A CARING AND LOVING ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE CARE FOR THEIR ELDERLY AND DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBERS. OUR POLICY IS TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY AS A BASIC UNIT AND TO DEVELOP CARING INTER-PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS. TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY, WE HAVE IN PLACE A COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK OF SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE WHICH ALSO CATERS FOR THE NEEDS OF SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES.

IN THIS MOTION DEBATE, HONOURABLE MEMBERS HAVE HIGHLIGHTED SOME OF THE PROBLEMS SUCH AS HOUSING AND FINANCIAL NEEDS FACED BY SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES IN HONG KONG. THESE PROBLEMS ARE NOT PECULIAR TO SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES. OTHER FAMILIES AND DISADVANTAGED GROUPS MAY ALSO EXPERIENCE SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES FROM TIME TO TIME. OUR SERVICES ARE THEREFORE AVAILABLE TO ALL THOSE WHO NEED THEM INCLUDING SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES.

/A SINGLE .....

## A SINGLE PARENT FAMILY

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WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "SINGLE PARENT FAMILY"? A SINGLE PARENT FAMILY IS COMMONLY DEFINED AS "A FAMILY WITH THE MOTHER OR THE FATHER BEING WIDOWED, DIVORCED OR SEPARATED AND LIVING WITH CHILD OR CHILDREN AGED UNDER 18." ACCORDING TO CENSUS DATA, THERE WERE 34,538 SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES IN HONG KONG IN 1991 AS COMPARED WITH 36,541 IN 1986. ALTHOUGH THIS NUMBER ONLY ACCOUNTS FOR 2.2% IN 1991 OR 2.5% IN 1986 OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES DESERVE OUR ATTENTION BECAUSE THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE VULNERABLE IN COPING WITH PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL THAT WE DO NOT STIGMATIZE SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES. THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCRIMINATION AMONG DIFFERENT TYPES OF FAMILY IN THE PROVISION OF SERVICES. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DESCRIBE SOME OF THE KEY SERVICES AVAILABLE TO SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES.

## HOUSING

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I AGREE WITH HONOURABLE MEMBERS THAT HOUSING TENDS TO BE A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES. BUT, BEING A SINGLE PARENT FAMILY DOES NOT AND SHOULD NOT BY ITSELF CONSTITUTE A CRITERION FOR PRIORITY TREATMENT IN THE ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS. IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO THOSE APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR A LONG TIME AND WHOSE ACCOMMODATION NEEDS MAY BE AS GREAT AS OR NO LESS THAN THOSE OF SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES. SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE HOUSING ASSISTANCE CAN BE REHOUSED UNDER THE COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING SCHEME ADMINISTERED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT. OUT OF AN ANNUAL ADJUSTABLE QUOTA UNDER THE SCHEME, A TOTAL OF 217 PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS WERE ALLOCATED TO SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES IN 1991/92. THE NUMBER INCREASED TO 327 IN 1992/93. SO FAR IN 1993/94, 301 SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES HAVE BEEN REHOUSED UNDER THE SCHEME.

FOR SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES WHO HAVE JUST SEPARATED OR DIVORCED AND WHO CANNOT CONTINUE TO REMAIN UNDER THE MATRIMONIAL HOME, A CONDITIONAL TENANCY PROGRAMME UNDER THE COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN JULY 1991 TO ALLOCATE PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS TO MEET THEIR URGENT REHOUSING NEEDS. WHEN THE PROGRAMME WAS REVIEWED EARLIER THIS YEAR, FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS WERE MADE TO PROVIDE BETTER AND QUICKER ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES IN NEED. THESE IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- THE SETTING ASIDE OF AN ADJUSTABLE SUB-QUOTA FOR CONDITIONAL TENANCY;
- RAISING THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMIT FOR APPLICANTS;
- ACCEPTING RECOMMENDATIONS ON CASES REFERRED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS; AND
- STREAMLINING OF PROCEDURES BETWEEN SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE SPEEDY REFERRALS AND PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS.

A TOTAL OF 318 CASES WERE REFERRED TO THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT FOR CONDITIONAL TENANCY SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN 1991. SO FAR, 238 CASES HAVE BEEN REHOUSED AND 72 CASES ARE UNDER PROCESSING. PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED IN AS QUICK AS SIX WEEKS OR IN NINE WEEKS ON AVERAGE.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING OR CONDITIONAL TENANCY, CHARITABLE TRUST FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP THESE FAMILIES ARRANGE FOR PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION.

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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THE DEATH OF THE SPOUSE OR SEPARATION MAY MAKE SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE HEADED BY WOMAN, MORE VULNERABLE FINANCIALLY. THE NEW COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE (CSSA) SCHEME INTRODUCED ON 1 JULY 1993 PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES. THE SCHEME EMBRACES DIFFERENT STANDARD RATES AND A RANGE OF SPECIAL GRANTS WHICH MEET THE GENERAL NEEDS OF RECIPIENTS AND SPECIAL NEEDS ARISING FROM ACCOMMODATION, TRAVELLING, CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION, ETC. THE RATES OF PAYMENT UNDER THE CSSA SCHEME PROVIDE REAL INCREASES BETWEEN 4% AND 37% OVER THOSE UNDER THE PREVIOUS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE SCHEMES. THESE RATES WILL BE REVISED ANNUALLY TO MAINTAIN THEIR PURCHASING POWER. IN ADDITION, THE STANDARD RATES FOR CHILDREN WILL BE INCREASED BY \$100 PER CHILD PER MONTH WITH EFFECT FROM 1 APRIL 1994 TO PROVIDE MORE POCKET MONEY FOR CHILDREN TO SOCIALIZE WITH THEIR PEERS. SPECIAL GRANTS CAN ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM CHARITABLE TRUST FUNDS TO MEET OTHER NEEDS OF SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES WHICH CANNOT BE COVERED BY THE CSSA SCHEME.

#### LEGAL AID

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WE HAVE TO ACCEPT THE REALITY THAT MARRIAGES DO HAVE THEIR UPS AND DOWNS. SHOULD A MARRIAGE BREAK DOWN IRRETRIEVABLY AND DISSOLUTION OF THAT MARRIAGE IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED, THE FAMILY LITIGATION SECTION OF THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO SINGLE PARENTS IN DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS, FOR CUSTODY OF CHILDREN AND FOR MAINTENANCE. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ASSISTS SINGLE PARENTS TO ENFORCE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS IF THE OTHER PARENT REFUSES TO PAY.

#### DAY CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

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APART FROM HOUSING, FINANCIAL AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE, A SINGLE PARENT FAMILY HAS ACCESS TO A WIDE RANGE OF SOCIAL SERVICES. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY ARE ACCORDED PRIORITY FOR DAY NURSERY AND DAY CRECHE SERVICES IN VIEW OF THEIR NEEDS. AN ADDITIONAL 5,600 AND 1,220 DAY NURSERY AND DAY CRECHE PLACES WILL BE PROVIDED BY 1996/97. NOT ALL PARENTS REQUIRE REGULAR CHILD CARE SERVICES. THE OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE PROVIDES A MORE FLEXIBLE SERVICE TO PARENTS WHO ARE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR YOUNG CHILDREN BUT MAY REQUIRE HELP OCCASIONALLY. EXTENDED HOURS IN SOME CHILD CARE CENTRES WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS. SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES WILL BENEFIT FROM THESE SERVICES.

HOME MANAGEMENT  
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OUR HOME HELP SERVICES PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE SUCH AS MEAL SERVICE, CHILD CARE SERVICE, LAUNDRY, ETC. SINGLE PARENTS, IN PARTICULAR SINGLE FATHERS WHO LACK HOME-MAKING SKILLS, ARE ONE OF THE TARGET GROUPS FOR THIS SERVICE. AN ADDITIONAL 44 HOME HELP TEAMS WILL BE PROVIDED BY 1996/97. TO ENHANCE PARENTING SKILLS IN CHILD CARE AND HOME MANAGEMENT, A NEW FAMILY CARE DEMONSTRATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE WILL BE ESTABLISHED NEXT YEAR.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING  
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ONCE THE TRAUMA OF SEPARATION OR WIDOWHOOD IS OVER, SINGLE PARENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES WANT TO GET ON WITH THEIR LIFE. MANY OF THEM ARE SELF-RELIANT. OTHERS MAY NEED SOME HELP, PARTICULARLY THOSE HOMEMAKERS WHO HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE EMPLOYMENT MARKET FOR A LONG TIME. THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OPERATES THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FROM A NETWORK OF 10 OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE. IN ADDITION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES ARE ORGANIZED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WHILE THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD OFFERS RETRAINING PROGRAMMES TO THOSE WHO WISH TO EQUIP THEMSELVES WITH SOME SKILLS FOR TAKING UP EMPLOYMENT.

COUNSELLING AND SUPPORTING SERVICES  
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CONCERNS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED ON COUNSELLING AND SUPPORTING SERVICES, OUR FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES PROVIDES PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING SERVICES ALONGSIDE WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENT FOR SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES WHO HAVE SUCH NEEDS. THE FAMILY CASE WORK SERVICE WILL BE IMPROVED IN 1994/95 BY BRINGING DOWN THE MANNING RATIO FROM ONE CASE WORKER TO 70 CASES TO ONE CASE WORKER TO 65 CASES. REFERRALS WILL BE MADE TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN GROUP ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS SHARING SESSIONS ORGANIZED BY THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION UNITS.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS HAVE RAISED THE QUESTION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES. THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT CHUK YUEN CHILDREN RECEPTION CENTRE IS OPEN ON A 24-HOUR BASIS. CHILDREN CAN BE TAKEN THERE IF HELP IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE IN AN EMERGENCY.

/MUTUAL HELP .....

### MUTUAL HELP GROUPS

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THE PROVISION OF SERVICES BY GOVERNMENT ALONE IS NEVER ENOUGH. A COMMUNITY NEEDS TO DEVELOP NEIGHBOURLINESS AND MUTUAL HELP. SOCIAL NETWORKS ARE PART OF CHINESE CULTURE AND THEY SHOULD OPERATE IN DIFFERENT STRATA OF OUR SOCIETY. MUTUAL HELP THROUGH SOCIAL NETWORKS IS A VERY IMPORTANT FORM OF ASSISTANCE TO MANY TYPES OF FAMILIES INCLUDING SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES WHOSE SUPPORT FROM WITHIN THE FAMILY MAY BE LACKING AND SOME SORT OF IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED. OUR POLICY THEREFORE IS TO ENCOURAGE FORMATION OF MUTUAL HELP GROUPS. SO FAR, ABOUT 100 MUTUAL HELP GROUP ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED IN THE PAST YEAR AT DISTRICT LEVEL TO PROVIDE A NETWORK OF CONTINUOUS SUPPORT AND SHARING FOR NEEDY FAMILIES. MANY OF THESE GROUP ACTIVITIES HAVE DEVELOPED INTO INFORMAL MUTUAL HELP GROUPS WHICH OFFER ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF TEMPORARY CHILD CARE AND HOME HELP TO EACH OTHER IN CASES OF EMERGENCIES.

AS HONOURABLE MEMBERS ARE AWARE THAT 1994 HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY. WE WILL STEP UP PUBLICITY AND THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE NEEDS OF SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES AND ACCEPTANCE OF THESE FAMILIES. WE NEED COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO AMELIORATE THE PROBLEMS FACING SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES.

### FAMILY WELFARE POLICY

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IN CLOSING, I MUST REITERATE THAT WE HAVE A WELL-DEFINED FAMILY WELFARE POLICY WHICH EMBRACES THE NEEDS OF SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES. THIS POLICY IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A WIDE NETWORK OF SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS. THEY WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER IN THE COORDINATION OF AND IN REVIEWING THE ADEQUACY OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES. I DO NOT SEE THE NEED FOR A SEPARATE WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW AND LOOK INTO THE MEASURES AND SERVICES NEEDED BY SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES. WHERE THERE ARE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS, THEY CAN BE TACKLED UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

FURTHERMORE, IT IS INAPPROPRIATE TO SEGREGATE SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES FROM OTHER TYPES OF FAMILIES IN OUR PROVISION OF SERVICES. IN DOING SO, WE WILL UNDULY LABEL SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES AS PROBLEMATIC. ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE BASED ON NEEDS RATHER THAN DETERMINED BY THE COMPOSITION OR STRUCTURE OF A FAMILY.

OUR FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES ARE REVIEWED AND DEVELOPED CONSTANTLY TO KEEP UP WITH CHANGING NEEDS WHICH INCLUDE THOSE OF SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES. IMPROVEMENT TO OUR FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES WILL BENEFIT ALL FAMILIES. WE NEED THE SUPPORT OF A CARING COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP THEM.

THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT.

LEGCO'S GREENLIGHT ON DISASTER RELIEF FUND

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A DISASTER RELIEF FUND TO HELP VICTIMS OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID THE FUND WOULD BE SET UP THIS FINANCIAL YEAR UNDER THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE WITH AN INITIAL APPROPRIATION OF \$50 MILLION FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE.

IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ANNUAL ESTIMATES, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO TOP UP THE FUND EVERY YEAR AS NECESSARY, HE SAID.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUND WILL PROVIDE A READY MECHANISM FOR HONG KONG TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO INTERNATIONAL APPEALS FOR HUMANITARIAN AID.

A COMMITTEE TO BE CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY WOULD BE SET UP TO ADVISE ON THE POLICY AND PRACTICES REGARDING THE USE OF FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF, ADVISE ON GRANT OF SPECIFIED AMOUNTS TO SPECIFIED RECIPIENTS AND MONITOR THE USE OF GRANTS.

MEMBERS WILL INCLUDE THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, TWO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TWO LEGCO MEMBERS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL BE DESIGNATED AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FUND.

DISBURSEMENTS MADE WITHIN THE LIMIT OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY WILL BE DEALT WITH ADMINISTRATIVELY.

"THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL WILL BE SOUGHT FOR INDIVIDUAL DISBURSEMENTS WHICH EXCEED THE LIMIT OF DELEGATED POWERS, CURRENTLY \$8 MILLION," MR MACLEOD SAID.

PUBLIC ARE ALSO WELCOME TO MAKE DONATIONS TO THE FUND.

"HOWEVER, FOR PRACTICAL REASONS, PUBLIC DONATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED FOR GENERAL RELIEF PURPOSE, NOT TIED TO INDIVIDUAL DISASTERS," HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL APPEALS FOR ASSISTANCE IS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT ON AN AD HOC BASIS.

BREWIN TRUST FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL INTRODUCED

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A BILL AIMING AT REMEDYING TWO ANOMALIES IN THE BREWIN TRUST FUND ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BREWIN TRUST FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID THE ORDINANCE, ENACTED IN 1955, PROVIDED FOR THE FUND TO BE USED TO GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO CHINESE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

"IN PRACTICE, FUNDS ARE ALLOCATED BY A TRUST FUND COMMITTEE TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED GUIDELINES," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ADVISED LAST YEAR THAT THIS PRACTICE DID NOT COMPLY WITH SECTION 4 OF THE ORDINANCE WHICH REQUIRES THE COMMITTEE TO SATISFY ITSELF THAT AN APPLICANT IS IN NEED OF MAINTENANCE OR BENEFIT BEFORE A GRANT IS MADE.

THE BILL NOW SEEKS TO REPEAL THE OLD SECTION AND SUBSTITUTE IT BY A NEW ONE TO ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO ALLOCATE MONEYS OF THE TRUST FUND TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS FOR FURTHER DISBURSEMENT TO DESERVING APPLICANTS.

IN ADDITION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ALSO ADVISED THAT THE RESTRICTION OF THE BENEFITS OF THE TRUST FUND TO CHINESE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS WAS INCONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE 22 OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS, HE EXPLAINED.

THE BILL, THEREFORE, PROPOSES TO REPEAL THE DEFINITION OF "CHINESE" AND INCORPORATE THE WORD "WIDOWERS" SO THAT THE ORDINANCE WOULD NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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GOVT WILL ACT UPON AIRCRAFT INCIDENT FINDINGS

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL IMMEDIATELY ACT UPON ANY FINDINGS OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO AN INCIDENT IN WHICH AN AIRCRAFT SLID OFF THE KAI TAK RUNWAY ON NOVEMBER 4 THIS YEAR.

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, GAVE HIS ASSURANCE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HOWARD YOUNG, MR SIU SAID: "THE REPORT WILL SEEK TO ESTABLISH THE CAUSE OR CAUSES OF THE ACCIDENT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MEASURES WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE INVESTIGATORS WILL ASSIST IN PREVENTING RECURRENCE OF A SIMILAR INCIDENT."

/THE INVESTIGATION .....

THE INVESTIGATION IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY INVESTIGATORS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER THE HONG KONG CIVIL AVIATION (INVESTIGATION OF ACCIDENTS) REGULATIONS.

IT WILL COVER DETAILED ANALYSIS OF A WIDE RANGE OF AERONAUTICAL AND METEOROLOGICAL DATA, AND CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE.

INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS CREWMEN, PASSENGERS AND STAFF OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ON DUTY WILL BE INTERVIEWED.

PERSONS INVOLVED IN OR CONCERNED WITH THE INCIDENT WILL BE PROVIDED WITH OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE INVESTIGATORS. THE REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED BEFORE A REPORT IS FINALISED.

COMPLETION OF THE FINAL REPORT IS LIKELY TO TAKE SOME TIME, DEPENDING ON THE TIME IT WOULD TAKE THE PARTIES INVOLVED TO RESPOND TO THE DRAFT REPORT, HE ADDED.

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PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AFTER 1997 UNDER REVIEW

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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL REVIEWING HONG KONG'S PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

"WE INTEND TO COMPLETE OUR INITIAL REVIEW IN THE NEAR FUTURE," HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI, MR LAM SAID THAT UNDER THE REVIEW, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FIRST CONSIDER WHICH OF THE EXISTING HOLIDAYS SHOULD BE RETAINED AFTER 1997.

THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT HOLIDAYS AFTER 1997 WOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

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TUEN MUN FLOODING NOT CAUSED BY PUBLIC WORKS

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO PART OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN WAS SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF FLOODING OF THE FU TEI FRESH WATER PUMPING STATION DURING AN EXCEPTIONALLY SEVERE RAINSTORM ON NOVEMBER 5.

THIS WAS EXPLAINED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALFRED TSO, MR BLAKE SAID THE FINDINGS, WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE PUBLIC, WERE THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT WORKS IN PROGRESS ON ROAD D9 CAUSED THE FLOODING.

"THE FINDINGS TO DATE ARE THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THE INCIDENT WAS CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT NOR IS THERE EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT IT WAS CAUSED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS IN PROGRESS.

"IF THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION DID ARISE, IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THE FACTS AND OF THE APPLICABLE LAW," HE SAID.

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NO EXEMPTION FOR GOVT DISCHARGES IN WATER CONTROL ZONES  
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DISCHARGES FROM GOVERNMENT PREMISES IN A WATER CONTROL ZONE ARE REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED UNDER THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY REV THE HON FUNG CHI-WOOD IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR EASON SAID THE ORDINANCE HAD NOT PROVIDED EXEMPTIONS FOR ANY DISCHARGES SINCE ITS AMENDMENT IN 1990.

TO DATE, 228 OR 60 PER CENT OF THE ABOUT 380 GOVERNMENT FACILITIES IN WATER CONTROL ZONES HAVE BEEN LICENSED.

"AS A RESULT, OVER 97 PER CENT OF THE WASTEWATER COMING FROM THESE ESTABLISHMENTS IS UNDER CONTROL," HE SAID.

LICENCE APPLICATIONS FOR ALMOST ALL THE REMAINING DISCHARGES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE LICENCES SHOULD BE ISSUED IN 1994.

MR EASON SAID ROUTINE MONITORING OF THE WATER CONTROL IN TOLO HARBOUR DID NOT INDICATE ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEM ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHUEN WAN LANDFILL.

NOTING THAT ONE OF THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WAS LEACHATE PRODUCED BY RAINWATER FILTERING THROUGH THE WASTE IN THE LANDFILL, HE SAID THE LEACHATE WAS SIGNIFICANTLY DILUTED ON ITS WAY THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND WATER SYSTEM BEFORE DISPERSING IN THE HARBOUR.

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POLICY TOWARDS VM CENTRE VISITORS EXPLAINED

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IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PERMIT AD HOC VISITORS TO VISIT VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS DETENTION CENTRES FROM TIME TO TIME, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE VISITORS INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARDS, JOURNALISTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION WORKERS, HE EXPLAINED.

MR ASPREY IS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN BARROW.

HE SAID EACH APPLICATION WAS CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT AND THE GOOD ORDER AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DETENTION CENTRES.

HE SAID THERE WERE SEVERAL OTHER DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF VISITORS TO DETENTION CENTRES.

THEY INCLUDED VISITING JUSTICES OF THE PEACE; LEGAL ADVISERS; VISITORS PROVIDING LONG-TERM WELFARE SERVICES, AND RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF DETAINEES, HE ADDED.

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PROVISION OF SUBTITLES ON TV PROGRAMMES FOR HEARING IMPAIRED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS SETTING UP A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER HOW BEST TO FURTHER EXTEND THE SERVICE OF PROVIDING SUBTITLES AND SIGN LANGUAGE ONTO THE NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED.

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WILL BE DRAWN FROM INTERESTED WELFARE ORGANISATIONS, TELEVISION STATIONS, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG (RTHK) AND RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LI WAH-MING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SAID THE GOVERNMENT FAVOURED A VOLUNTARY APPROACH IN EXTENDING SUCH A SERVICE BECAUSE THERE WERE REAL PRACTICAL PROBLEMS IN MAKING IT MANDATORY.

"OTHER THAN COSTS, WHICH CAN BE QUITE SUBSTANTIAL, ONE OF THE MAIN DIFFICULTIES IS THAT NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES ARE OFTEN BROADCAST LIVE," MR SO SAID.

"THIS MAKES IT TECHNICALLY VERY DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE SUBTITLING," HE ADDED.

AT PRESENT THE LOCAL TELEVISION STATIONS HAVE RESPONDED WELL ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS IN PROVIDING SUBTITLING TO MANY OF THEIR NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES.

RTHK IS CURRENTLY PROVIDING A HALF-HOUR "NEWS REVIEW" PROGRAMME EVERY SUNDAY BETWEEN 8.30 AM AND 9 AM WITH FULL SUBTITLING AND SIGN LANGUAGE.

THE STATION'S OTHER PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES ALSO CARRY SUBTITLING WHEN INTERVIEWS WITH NON-CANTONESE SPEAKERS ARE SHOWN.

FURTHERMORE, STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO PROVIDE MORE CAPTIONING ON ANNOUNCEMENTS IN PUBLIC INTEREST THAT RELATE TO GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

AS FOR THE OTHER TWO COMMERCIAL TELEVISION STATIONS, SOME 10 PER CENT OF THEIR NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES, WHICH AVERAGE ABOUT 10 HOURS A WEEK, CARRY SUBTITLING.

WHARF CABLE'S NEW CHANNEL ALSO PROVIDES SUBTITLING TO OVER NINE PER CENT OF ITS PROGRAMMES, WHICH AVERAGE ABOUT 15 HOURS A WEEK.

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RECRUITMENT OF OVERSEAS POLICE INSPECTORS TO BE PHASED OUT  
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THE NUMBER OF OVERSEAS POLICE INSPECTOR RECRUITS IS EXPECTED TO GRADUALLY DECLINE, IN PARTICULAR DUE TO THE IMPROVED SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO LOCAL RECRUITMENT.

AS SUCH, OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT SHOULD BE PHASED OUT COMPLETELY IN TWO TO THREE YEARS' TIME.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR STUART HARBINSON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MICHAEL HO MUN-KA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR HARBINSON SAID AT PRESENT, OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT WAS CONTINUING AT A MODEST LEVEL TO SUPPLEMENT LOCAL RECRUITMENT AND BECAUSE THIS IS TRADITIONAL.

"THERE ARE ALSO SOME BENEFITS DERIVING FROM A CROSS-CULTURAL APPROACH IN TERMS OF THE TERRITORY'S COSMOPOLITAN IMAGE," HE SAID.

MR HARBINSON ALSO RELEASED THE NUMBER OF OVERSEAS POLICE INSPECTORS RECRUITED IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

STATISTICS SHOW THAT 116 LOCAL AND 34 OVERSEAS POLICE INSPECTORS WERE RECRUITED IN 1990/91.

THE NUMBER OF LOCAL AND OVERSEAS POLICE INSPECTORS RECRUITED IN 1991/92 WERE 75 AND 15, AND THAT FOR 1992/93 WERE 71 AND 20 RESPECTIVELY.

UP TO NOVEMBER 27 THIS YEAR, THE INTAKE OF LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INSPECTORS WAS 71 AND 16 RESPECTIVELY.

MR HARBINSON ADDED THAT LOCAL OFFICERS COMPRISED 78 PER CENT OF ALL STAFF IN THE INSPECTORATE.

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CONCERTED EFFORTS TO CURB ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF MEAT

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A MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 8,000 KILOGRAMS OF PORK WERE SEIZED AT SHA TAU KOK BETWEEN AUGUST LAST YEAR AND OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, 11,000 KILOGRAMS WERE SEIZED.

SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE AT MAN KAM TO AND LOK MA CHAU CONTROL POINTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, DR S H LEE, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MICHAEL HO MUN-KA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DR LEE SAID FOLLOWING AN INCREASE IN ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF MEAT AT SHA TAU KOK IN AUGUST LAST YEAR, INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CO-ORDINATION HAD BEEN IMPROVED AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION STEPPED UP, BOTH AT THE BORDER AS WELL AS AT RETAIL LEVEL.

AN ADDITIONAL CUSTOMS POST HAS ALSO BEEN SET UP AT SHEK CHUNG AU TO CHECK VEHICLES COMING FROM SHA TAU KOK.

"ALL DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED ARE CO-OPERATING TO CONTROL THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF PIGS AND PORK AND CONCERTED EFFORTS OF ALL ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WILL BE MAINTAINED," HE STATED.

DR LEE EXPLAINED THAT THE FRONT-LINE CONTROL ON ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF MEAT AND LIVESTOCK RESTED WITH THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE.

THE TWO DEPARTMENTS HAVE CHECKPOINTS ALONG THE BORDER AND SEA PATROLS WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS.

CASES MAY ALSO BE REFERRED TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION.

FOR EXAMPLE, UNDER REGULATION 4 OF THE IMPORTED GAME, MEAT AND POULTRY REGULATIONS, ALL IMPORTED MEAT MUST BE COVERED BY AN OFFICIAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY A COMPETENT AUTHORITY RECOGNISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

WHERE IMPORTED PORK SEIZED AT THE BORDER IS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY SUCH CERTIFICATES (OR SOMETIMES ACCOMPANIED BY FAKE CERTIFICATES), THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH WILL TAKE NECESSARY ACTION UNDER THE REGULATION 4 AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE.

THE TWO MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PREVENTING SMUGGLED PORK FROM BEING PUT ON SALE IN RETAIL MARKETS.

THEY WOULD CONDUCT SURPRISE CHECKS ON MEAT SHOPS AND MARKET MEAT STALLS TO SEE IF MEAT FROM ILLEGAL SOURCES WAS DELIVERED TO THEM.

PARTICULAR ATTENTION IS PAID TO CHECK WHETHER THE PIG CARCASSES BEAR STAMPS INDICATING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED IN A GOVERNMENT OR LICENSED SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF LIVESTOCK DISEASE CONTROL, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IS AUTHORISED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ANIMALS AND BIRDS) REGULATIONS TO DIRECT IMPORTED LIVE PIGS TO ABATTOIRS FOR IMMEDIATE SLAUGHTERING.

AS SUCH, THE LEGISLATION IS NOT DESIGNED TO REGULATE THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE PIGS FROM CHINA.

AS REGARDS PENALTIES, DR LEE NOTED THAT THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF MEAT UNDER REGULATION 7 OF THE IMPORTED GAME, MEAT AND POULTRY ORDINANCE WAS A FINE OF \$25,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

"HOWEVER, ONCE THE MEAT HAS PASSED THROUGH FRONT-LINE DETECTION AND HAS REACHED THE MARKET PLACE, THE OFFENDER CAN ONLY BE CHARGED WITH SALE OF UNSTAMPED MEAT UNDER THE FOOD BUSINESS BY-LAWS, FOR WHICH THE MAXIMUM PENALTY IS A FINE OF \$5,000 AND THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

"TO RECTIFY THIS DISCREPANCY, BOTH MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS ARE PREPARING TO REVISE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY UNDER THE BY-LAWS TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH THAT IN THE REGULATIONS," DR LEE SAID.

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#### MAN-MADE SLOPES UNDER ONGOING INSPECTION

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THREE KINDS OF INSPECTIONS FOR MAN-MADE SLOPES ARE BEING CARRIED OUT ON LANTAU ISLAND AND ELSEWHERE IN HONG KONG AS AN ONGOING EXERCISE.

THESE INCLUDE REGULAR MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT EITHER BY PRIVATE OWNERS OF THE LAND OR BY THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OF LAND UNDER THEIR CARE.

THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OFFICE (GEO) ALSO CARRIED OUT EMERGENCY INSPECTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND LANDSLIPS REPORTED.

ALSO, UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S LANDSLIP PREVENTIVE MEASURES PROGRAMME (LPMP), GEO INVESTIGATES EXISTING SLOPES THAT POSE A POTENTIAL RISK TO LIFE, EXECUTES UPGRADING WORKS ON GOVERNMENT LAND AND INITIATES NECESSARY ACTIONS FOR PRIVATE LAND UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

THE EXERCISE WAS OUTLINED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BLAKE SAID THE SELECTION OF GOVERNMENT SLOPES FOR INCLUSION INTO THE LPMP WAS ONGOING AND SLOPES ON LANTAU, INCLUDING THOSE THAT FAILED DURING THE NOVEMBER 5 RAINSTORM, WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER SLOPES IN THE TERRITORY.

"AS A RESULT OF THE PRELIMINARY GEOTECHNICAL STUDIES UNDERTAKEN ON LANTAU ISLAND, 22 SLOPES THAT OVERLOOK BUILDINGS AND POSE A DIRECT RISK TO LIFE ARE BEING UPGRADED UNDER THE LPMP.

"WORKS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED ON 14 SLOPES AND WORKS ON THE REMAINING EIGHT WILL BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY 1994," MR BLAKE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ARRANGE FOR SUITABLE REPAIRS AND STABILISING WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT FOR OTHER SLOPES FAILED DURING THE RAINSTORM BUT WHICH WERE NOT INCLUDED UNDER THE LPMP.

IT WOULD ISSUE INTERNAL TECHNICAL CIRCULARS TO ENSURE THAT PROPER MAINTENANCE WOULD ALWAYS BE CARRIED OUT TO MINIMISE THE CHANCE OF FAILURE.

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TUITION FEES FOR PART-TIME TERTIARY COURSES  
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TUITION FEES CHARGED FOR PART-TIME COURSES FUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) WHOLLY OR PARTLY ARE DETERMINED BY THE UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS.

THE FORMULAE THEY USE ARE BASED ON THE RECOMMENDED FEE LEVELS FOR FULL-TIME DEGREE AND SUB-DEGREE COURSES APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS ADOPT DIFFERENT FORMULAE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TIK CHI-YUEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ACTUAL AVERAGE COST RECOVERY RATES REPRESENTED BY TUITION FEES FOR ALL UPGC-FUNDED COURSES, BOTH FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME, FOR 1990/91 AND 1991/92 WERE 8.6 PER CENT AND 9.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, MR LAM SAID.

THE ESTIMATED COST RECOVERY RATE FOR 1992/93 WAS 8.9 PER CENT.

MR LAM ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WERE TWO TYPES OF PART-TIME COURSES NOT FUNDED BY THE UPGC.

/THESE INCLUDE .....

THESE INCLUDE THOSE OPERATED BY THE EXTRAMURAL STUDIES OR CONTINUING EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS OF THE UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS SOLELY; AND THOSE OPERATED BY THE INSTITUTIONS IN COLLABORATION WITH OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS.

"THE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE TUITION FEES FOR THESE TWO TYPES OF COURSES ARE DIFFERENT, AND THEY ALSO DIFFER BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS.

"IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, THEY ARE OPERATED ON A FULL-COST RECOVERY BASIS," MR LAM SAID.

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IMPROVED SERVICES FOR PATIENTS WITH CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES  
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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, DR S H LEE, SAID PLANS WERE IN HAND TO AUGMENT EXISTING SERVICES FOR PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES.

THESE INCLUDE THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF DESIGNATED REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES FOR STROKE PATIENTS, COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMMES FOR ELDERLY PATIENTS SUFFERING A HIGHER INCIDENCE OF CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES, AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL PROVISION OF CONVALESCENT BEDS AND GERIATRIC DAY HOSPITAL PLACES.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), DR LEE SAID 16,124 PATIENTS WERE TREATED IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS FOR CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES LAST YEAR.

THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC HOSPITAL BEDS AVAILABLE TO SERVE PATIENTS REQUIRING CONVALESCENT CARE AT THE END OF MARCH THIS YEAR WAS 3,575.

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ADEQUATE PROVISIONS FOR SCAFFOLDING SAFETY  
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THERE ARE PROVISIONS IN THE LAW TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF SCAFFOLDING AND TO MINIMISE NUISANCE CAUSED TO THE NEARBY RESIDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR EASON SAID THE ERECTION OF SCAFFOLDING WAS SUBJECT TO REGULATION UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE ENFORCED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, ALL SCAFFOLDING SHOULD BE MADE OF STRONG AND SOUND MATERIALS, FREE FROM DEFECTS AND PROPERLY MAINTAINED.

THE REGULATIONS ALSO REQUIRE THE SCAFFOLDING TO BE FIXED, SECURED AND REGULARLY INSPECTED TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS.

MR EASON SAID IN ADDITION TO REGULAR INSPECTIONS, A SPECIAL INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN ON SCAFFOLDING WAS CONDUCTED FROM APRIL TO JUNE THIS YEAR.

A SIMILAR OPERATION WILL BE MOUNTED LATER THIS MONTH AND THOSE WHO BREACH THE LAW WILL BE PROSECUTED, HE SAID.

MR EASON SAID SCAFFOLDING ERECTED IN CONNECTION WITH STRUCTURAL OR DRAINAGE REPAIR WORKS AND NEW BUILDING WORKS WAS CONTROLLED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT ALL REPAIR WORKS AND NEW BUILDING WORKS ARE CARRIED OUT TO SAFETY STANDARDS LAID DOWN IN THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

HE SAID STAFF OF THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT INSPECTED THE WORKS REGULARLY.

"AS A STANDARD PROCEDURE, THEY ARE REQUIRED TO SATISFY THEMSELVES THAT SCAFFOLDING IS SAFE AND REMOVED FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE WORKS FOR WHICH PLANS HAVE BEEN APPROVED OR FOR WHICH ORDERS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE HAVE BEEN ISSUED.

"THESE PROVISIONS ARE GENERALLY ADEQUATE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF SCAFFOLDING AND, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, RESIDENTS OF BUILDINGS WHERE SCAFFOLDING IS PUT UP ARE NOT SUBJECTED TO UNDUE NUISANCE.

"COMPLAINTS ABOUT SCAFFOLDING SHOULD BE MADE TO BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT, OR, IN EMERGENCIES, THE POLICE."

HE SAID THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO REVIEW THE LEGISLATION FOR THE TIME BEING.

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#### CRITERIA FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADJUDICATORS EXPLAINED

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NO ARTICLES WERE CLASSIFIED BY THREE OR MORE ADJUDICATORS OF THE OBSCENE ARTICLES TRIBUNAL IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SAID.

THE PRESIDING MAGISTRATE SAT ON THE TRIBUNAL WITH TWO ADJUDICATORS AS A RULE, HE ADDED.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TIK CHI-YUEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR SO SAID DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS, EACH ADJUDICATOR ATTENDED EIGHT HEARINGS PER YEAR ON AVERAGE.

THERE IS NO PRE-DETERMINED CRITERIA FOR ASSIGNING WORK TO INDIVIDUAL ADJUDICATORS AS THEY ARE SELECTED BY ROTATION.

"HOWEVER EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO ENSURE THAT THE MEMBERS SELECTED REPRESENT DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY.

"A RECORD IS KEPT OF ATTENDANCE MAINLY TO ENSURE THAT THE LOAD IS SPREAD EVENLY AMONG THE ADJUDICATORS AS FAR AS PRACTICAL AND NO ONE IS OVERBURDENED."

IN APPOINTING ADJUDICATORS, MR SO NOTED THAT THE CHIEF JUSTICE WOULD ENSURE A FAIR REPRESENTATION OF THE PUBLIC IN TERMS OF AGE, SOCIAL BACKGROUND, EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND THE SEXES.

APPOINTMENTS ARE MADE FROM NOMINATIONS PUT FORWARD BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES.

UNDER THE OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE, A PERSON IS ELIGIBLE TO BE APPOINTED TO THE PANEL OF ADJUDICATORS IF HE IS AN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG, HAS RESIDED FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS, AND IS PROFICIENT IN WRITTEN ENGLISH AND WRITTEN CHINESE.

HIS APPOINTMENT MAY NOT EXCEED THREE YEARS BUT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR REAPPOINTMENT.

AN ADJUDICATOR MAY BE DISMISSED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE IF HE CEASES TO BE AN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG, CONVICTED OF ANY OFFENCE, DECLARED BANKRUPT, OR NEGLECTS OR IS UNABLE TO PERFORM HIS DUTY.

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96 PASS TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS  
ASSESSMENT EXAM  
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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM, SAID OF THE 96 CANDIDATES WHO HAD SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE NON-GRADUATE TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION THIS YEAR, 23 PASSED ALL THREE PARTS OF THE ASSESSMENT.

THEY WILL BECOME FULLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS AFTER COMPLETING A SUPERVISED TEACHING PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN ONE YEAR IN A PRIMARY SCHOOL.

THE REMAINING 73 WHO PASSED ONLY PARTS I AND II OF THE EXAMINATION MAY BECOME FULLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AFTER COMPLETING A TWO-YEAR, PART-TIME, IN-SERVICE COURSE, HE ADDED.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON LAM KUI-CHUN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR LAM SAID 57 OF THE 96 SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES HAD ACQUIRED THEIR POST-SECONDARY QUALIFICATIONS IN CHINA.

AND AS AT NOVEMBER 25 THIS YEAR, 59 SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WERE TEACHING IN SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG.

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WORKING GROUP TO STUDY ELDERLY SERVICES

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THE WORKING GROUP ON CARE FOR THE ELDERLY APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR RECENTLY IS TASKED TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AN AGING POPULATION ON THE COMMUNITY.

IT ALSO AIMS TO CONDUCT AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE POLICY ON CARE FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE, TO ADVISE ON NEW AND COST-EFFECTIVE WAYS OF MEETING THE DEMAND FOR ELDERLY SERVICES, AND TO IDENTIFY WAYS TO CO-ORDINATE SERVICES.

HOWEVER, IT HAS NOT BEEN TASKED TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, DR S H LEE, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DR LEE NOTED THAT THE WORKING GROUP WAS NOT A STANDING COMMITTEE AND HAD TO REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT BY AUGUST 1994.

ON THE REPORT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH WAS ISSUED IN SEPTEMBER 1988, DR LEE SAID IT CONTAINED MORE THAN 40 GENERAL AS WELL AS SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS.

NEARLY ALL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

"IN VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1988, THE REMAINING RECOMMENDATIONS MAY HAVE TO BE REVIEWED," HE SAID.

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PUBLIC HOUSING ALLOCATED TO MEET TENANTS' EXPECTATION

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THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL OBJECTIVE IN ALLOCATING PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS IS TO ENSURE A SMOOTH PROCESS IN MEETING TENANTS' EXPECTATION AS FAR AS RESOURCES PERMIT, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG WAI-YIN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR EASON SAID PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS MIGHT APPLY FOR TRANSFER ON SOCIAL AND MEDICAL GROUNDS OR ON ACCOUNT OF OVERCROWDING.

WHETHER A TENANT IS RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IS NOT A KEY CONSIDERATION IN PROCESSING SUCH APPLICATIONS, HE SAID.

MR EASON NOTED THAT DURING REDEVELOPMENT, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT MIGHT OFFER SMALLER OR OLDER FLATS TO FAMILIES WHO PREFERRED TO HAVE FLATS IN THE SAME DISTRICT WHERE THE RENTS WERE LOWER THAN THOSE IN THE NEW RECEPTION ESTATES.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1993

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CONTRACTORS MUST ENSURE WORK SITE SAFETY

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CONTRACTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT ALL ON-SITE FACILITIES AND ENGINEERING WORKS ARE SAFE BEFORE RESUMPTION OF WORK AFTER A TYPHOON OR RAINSTORM, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG, MR LAM SAID UNDER THE GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE, EVERY CONTRACTOR HAD THE DUTY TO PROVIDE A SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK FOR HIS EMPLOYEES.

"THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT UNDERTAKES REGULAR INSPECTION OF CONSTRUCTION SITES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH SAFETY STANDARDS," HE SAID.

"PROSECUTIONS ARE TAKEN OUT WHEN A BREACH AGAINST ANY PROVISION IN THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY LAW IS DISCOVERED," HE ADDED.

MR LAM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT FOLLOWING THE LATEST REVIEW OF THE ADEQUACY OF MEASURES TO ENSURE SAFETY ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, A NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS WILL BE PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL NEXT YEAR.

THESE INCLUDE:

- \* INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SAFETY OFFICERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES;
- \* PROHIBITING THE EMPLOYMENT OF UNTRAINED YOUNG WORKERS BELOW THE AGE OF 18;
- \* TIGHTENING THE SAFETY STANDARDS OF BUILDER'S LIFTS; AND
- \* LAYING DOWN A SET OF REGULATIONS TO CONTROL THE OPERATION OF WORKING PLATFORMS.

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JOB TRAINING FOR DISABLED SCHOOL LEAVERS

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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, DR S H LEE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REAFFIRMED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

HE SAID THE NECESSARY FUNDS HAD BEEN SOUGHT TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 3,760 PLACES IN DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES AND SHELTERED WORKSHOPS FOR THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE BY 1996/97.

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IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON LAM KUI-CHUN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR LEE SAID MENTALLY HANDICAPPED SCHOOL LEAVERS ASSESSED AS HAVING THE ABILITY TO WORK IN OPEN EMPLOYMENT WERE PROVIDED WITH VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION IN SIX SKILLS CENTRES FOR THE DISABLED RUN BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS.

"THESE CENTRES NORMALLY ARRANGE JOB PLACEMENTS OR JOB PLACEMENT REFERRALS FOR THEIR TRAINEES PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THEIR TRAINING," HE SAID.

"THIS HELPS TO MINIMISE TRAINEES' WAITING TIME FOR OPEN EMPLOYMENT."

OF THE 83 MENTALLY HANDICAPPED SCHOOL LEAVERS WHO COMPLETED VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSES FROM JANUARY TO AUGUST LAST YEAR, 66 , OR 80 PER CENT, HAD SECURED OPEN EMPLOYMENT.

AS FOR THOSE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED SCHOOL LEAVERS WHO CANNOT BENEFIT FROM VOCATIONAL TRAINING, SOME ARE PROVIDED WITH SUPPORTED OR SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT.

STATISTICS SHOW THAT IN THE 1991/92 SCHOOL YEAR, THERE WERE 93 REFERRALS FOR SUPPORTED OR SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT, OF WHOM 43 MENTALLY HANDICAPPED SCHOOL LEAVERS, OR 45 PER CENT, SECURED SUCH EMPLOYMENT.

DR LEE NOTED THAT APART FROM THE SKILL CENTRES, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION ALSO PROVIDED FREE PLACEMENT SERVICES FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS WISHING TO SEEK JOBS IN THE OPEN MARKET.

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MORE TIMELY TRAFFIC UPDATES FOR ROAD USERS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS TO START UP A NEW DEDICATED RADIO BROADCAST CHANNEL FOR ROAD USERS SINCE RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG (RTHK) ALREADY OPERATES A DEDICATED TRAFFIC CHANNEL, RADIO 7.

HOWEVER, CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO IMPROVING FURTHER LIAISON BETWEEN RTHK AND THE POLICE AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE THAT MORE TIMELY TRAFFIC UPDATES FROM ALL PARTS OF THE TERRITORY ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PROGRAMME ANNOUNCER.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HOWARD YOUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR SO POINTED OUT THAT TRAFFIC REPORTS WERE BROADCAST IN CANTONESE ON RADIO 7 THROUGHOUT THE DAY AT HALF-HOURLY INTERVALS, WITH THE FREQUENCY INCREASING TO EVERY 15 MINUTES BETWEEN 8 AM AND 9 AM AND FROM 5.30 PM TO 6.30 PM.

THERE IS ALSO FLEXIBILITY IN THE PROGRAMMING OF RADIO 7 TO ALLOW FOR SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS TO BE BROADCAST AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY WHEN NECESSARY.

THE OTHER RTHK RADIO CHANNELS ALSO BROADCAST REGULAR TRAFFIC REPORTS, THOUGH NOT AS FREQUENTLY AS RADIO 7.

MR SO ADDED THAT THE COST OF OPERATING RADIO 7 IN 1993/94 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$6.7 MILLION.

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GNP STUDY TO BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR

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A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE COMPILATION OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT STATISTICS IN HONG KONG WILL BE COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

THE STUDY IS DESIGNED TO ASCERTAIN APPROPRIATE METHODS OF COLLECTING DATA, THE COSTS AND REPORTING BURDEN ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

STARTED EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE STUDY HAS REACHED AN ADVANCED STAGE, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR TAM WING-PONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR TAM SAID RESULTS OBTAINED SO FAR INDICATED THAT, GRANTING ADEQUATE LEGAL BACKING AND SUPPORT FROM DATA SUPPLIERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, IT SHOULD BE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE TO COMPILE SUCH STATISTICS.

"RESULTS WILL BE PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

"SUBJECT TO DECISION ON THE WAY FORWARD AND THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION, NECESSARY WORK CAN START THEREAFTER," HE SAID.

ALLOWING TIME FOR DRAFTING AND ENACTMENT OF A SURVEY ORDER, COLLECTION OF DATA IN RESPECT OF 1993 WILL START IN OCTOBER NEXT YEAR AND THE FIRST SET OF SUCH STATISTICS FOR 1993 WILL BE RELEASED BY THE END OF 1995, MR TAM SAID.

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LEGCO TO CONDUCT HEARINGS ON ALEX TSUI'S TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION UNDER THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (POWERS AND PRIVILEGES) ORDINANCE TO CONDUCT HEARINGS ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE TERMINATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF MR ALEX TSUI BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION.

SIXTEEN MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE MOTION, MOVED BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW, FOR ONE-AND-HALF HOURS. THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON ANSON CHAN, SPOKE FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

THE LEGCO ALSO PASSED A MOTION MOVED BY THE HON PETER WONG ON SEWAGE CHARGING POLICY.

NINETEEN MEMBERS DEBATED FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS. THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, REPLIED FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

ANOTHER MOTION PROPOSED BY THE HON FRED LI ON SINGLE PARENT FAMILY WAS ALSO PASSED.

A TOTAL OF 13 COUNCILLORS SPOKE FOR ONE-AND-A-HALF HOURS IN THE DEBATE. THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, DR S H LEE, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

TWO OTHER MOTIONS - ONE MOVED BY THE HON JAMES TO UNDER THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE AND THE OTHER BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD, UNDER THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE - WERE ALSO PASSED.

THE GAMBLING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 WAS ALSO PASSED WITHOUT AMENDMENT.