



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1991

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GOVERNOR VISITS LONDON CHINATOWN

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THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON TODAY (FRIDAY) PAID A VISIT TO LONDON'S CHINATOWN AND TOOK A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT HOW A LOCAL CHINESE NEWSPAPER OPERATES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER, MR JOHN YAXLEY, THEY CALLED ON THE SING TAO (EUROPEAN EDITION) NEWSPAPER'S OFFICE IN SOHO AND WERE MET BY THE SENIOR STAFF OF THE PAPER.

AS A FORMER EDITOR OF THE "CHINA QUARTERLY", THE GOVERNOR EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN SING TAO'S OPERATION IN BRITAIN AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS FRANCE AND HOLLAND.

AFTER TOURING THE SING TAO OFFICE, LADY WILSON WENT ON A SHORT VISIT TO THE LONDON CHINATOWN WHILE SIR DAVID ATTENDED TO HIS OTHER OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS.

ESCORTED BY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, MISS MAUREEN WONG, LADY WILSON CALLED ON THE LONDON CHINATOWN CHINESE COMMUNITY CENTRE IN GERRARD STREET WHERE SHE HAD TEA WITH MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

SHE ALSO JOINED A GROUP OF ELDERLY LADIES, WHO ARE STUDENTS OF AN ENGLISH CLASS HELD AT THE CENTRE, IN THEIR CELEBRATION OF THE "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY".

IN THE EVENING, THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON WERE GUESTS OF HONOUR AT A RECEPTION HELD AT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS AND PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE FORMER HONG KONG RESIDENTS.

OVER 50 GUESTS ATTENDED THE FUNCTION.

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR JANUARY PUBLISHED

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HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED DURING JANUARY, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH.

CONSISTENT WITH THIS, ALL DEFINITIONS OF HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ROSE DURING THE MONTH. TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES ALSO REGISTERED AN INCREASE IN JANUARY.

/DEPOSITS

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, INCREASED BY 2.1% IN JANUARY, FOLLOWING A DECLINE OF 0.3% IN NOVEMBER AND AN INCREASE OF 1.4% IN DECEMBER RESPECTIVELY.

OF THESE DEPOSITS, DEMAND DEPOSITS AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 9.0% AND 7.6% RESPECTIVELY IN JANUARY WHILE TIME DEPOSITS DECREASED BY 2.0%. COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 17.5%.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS ROSE BY 1.9% IN JANUARY, AFTER INCREASES OF 1.7% AND 1.5% IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER RESPECTIVELY.

AMONG THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR AND NON-U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS ROSE BY 3.1% AND 1.1% RESPECTIVELY IN JANUARY. OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 25.2%.

DURING JANUARY, DEPOSITS OF ALL CURRENCIES WITH LICENSED BANKS ROSE BY 2.2% WHILE THOSE WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL BY 1.6% AND 2.9% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS AND RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS INCREASED BY 22.7% AND 22.2% RESPECTIVELY WHILE THOSE WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL BY 3.7%.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK\$M1, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 INCREASED BY 5.7%, 2.3% AND 1.9% RESPECTIVELY IN JANUARY. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN DECEMBER WERE -0.6%, 1.7% AND 1.6%. OVER THE YEAR, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES ROSE BY 5.5%, 16.1% AND 15.1% RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 ROSE BY 3.2%, 2.2% AND 2.0% RESPECTIVELY IN JANUARY. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN DECEMBER WERE 1.3%, 1.6% AND 1.5%. OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 GREW BY 7.1%, 21.1% AND 20.4% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 3.0% IN JANUARY, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 2.0% AND 1.2% IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER RESPECTIVELY.

OF THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLARS GREW BY 1.6% DURING JANUARY, WHILE THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES ROSE BY 3.7%. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 14.5% AND 69.5% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG INCREASED BY 3.1% IN JANUARY, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 2.1% IN NOVEMBER AND A DECLINE OF 0.3% IN DECEMBER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 16.3%.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG GREW BY 1.3% IN JANUARY FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 2.0% AND 0.5% IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 16.5%.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG ROSE BY 4.6% IN JANUARY, AFTER INCREASES OF 1.4% AND 2.1% IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 90.1%. A CONSIDERABLE PROPORTION OF THIS INCREASE WAS CONTRIBUTED BY EURO-YEN LOANS.

LOANS TO FINANCE MERCHANDISING TRADE NOT TOUCHING HONG KONG FELL BY 3.9% IN JANUARY, AFTER DECLINES OF 2.5% AND 2.2% IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, HOWEVER, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 13.9%.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 166 WHILE THAT OF RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS ROSE BY ONE TO 45 AND THAT OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECLINED BY FOUR TO 187.

NOTES :

- (1) BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1990, "RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS" AND "DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES" WERE KNOWN AS "LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES" AND "REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES" RESPECTIVELY.
- (2) IN THE TEXT ABOVE, TOTAL HK\$ DEPOSITS, HK\$ TIME DEPOSITS, HK\$m2 AND HK\$m3 HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS. TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS AND U.S.\$ DEPOSITS HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO EXCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS.

"SWAP DEPOSITS" ARE DEPOSITS INVOLVING CUSTOMERS BUYING FOREIGN CURRENCIES (MOSTLY U.S. DOLLARS) IN THE SPOT MARKET AND PLACING THEM AS DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT TO SELL SUCH FOREIGN CURRENCIES (PRINCIPAL PLUS INTEREST) FORWARD IN LINE WITH THE MATURITY OF SUCH DEPOSITS. FOR MOST ANALYTICAL PURPOSES, THEY SHOULD BE REGARDED AS HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS.

MONETARY STATISTICS - JANUARY 1991

(HK\$mn)

	Jan 1991	Earlier months (% change to January 1991)		
		Dec 1990	Oct 1990	Jan 1990
Money Supply				
M1 - HK\$	97,062	91,826 (5.7 %)	89,728 (8.2 %)	92,014 (5.5 %)
Foreign currency	13,880	15,693 (-11.5 %)	14,177 (-2.1 %)	11,554 (20.1 %)
Total	110,942	107,509 (3.2 %)	103,905 (6.8 %)	103,568 (7.1 %)
M2 - HK\$*	552,058	539,667 (2.3 %)	530,131 (4.1 %)	475,354 (16.1 %)
Foreign currency*	684,895	670,383 (2.2 %)	651,404 (5.1 %)	545,818 (25.5 %)
Total	1,236,952	1,210,050 (2.2 %)	1,181,535 (4.7 %)	1,021,172 (21.1 %)
M3 - HK\$*	582,345	571,215 (1.9 %)	562,607 (3.5 %)	505,900 (15.1 %)
Foreign currency*	730,851	716,813 (2.0 %)	694,874 (5.2 %)	584,484 (25.0 %)
Total	1,313,195	1,288,028 (2.0 %)	1,257,480 (4.4 %)	1,090,384 (20.4 %)
Notes and coins in circulation	45,802	43,261 (5.9 %)	40,457 (13.2 %)	48,563 (-5.7 %)
of which held by public	38,070	37,693 (1.0 %)	35,211 (8.1 %)	41,811 (-8.9 %)
Total Deposits				
Total Demand deposits	72,871	69,815 (4.4 %)	68,694 (6.1 %)	61,757 (18.0 %)
Total Savings deposits	242,123	231,672 (4.5 %)	225,163 (7.5 %)	194,619 (24.4 %)
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	866,072	853,632 (1.5 %)	834,990 (3.7 %)	706,270 (22.6 %)
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	43,069	43,784 (-1.6 %)	40,976 (5.1 %)	35,242 (22.2 %)
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	31,417	32,368 (-2.9 %)	33,421 (-6.0 %)	32,626 (-3.7 %)
HK\$ deposits*	530,884	520,115 (2.1 %)	514,606 (3.2 %)	451,930 (17.5 %)
US\$ deposits*	304,014	294,913 (3.1 %)	296,219 (2.6 %)	262,812 (15.7 %)
Other foreign currency deposits	420,655	416,243 (1.1 %)	392,419 (7.2 %)	315,771 (33.2 %)
All deposits	1,255,553	1,231,271 (2.0 %)	1,203,244 (4.3 %)	1,030,512 (21.8 %)
Foreign currency swap deposits	65,278	67,733 (-3.6 %)	68,416 (-4.6 %)	63,033 (3.6 %)
Total Loans and advances				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	73,287	71,087 (3.1 %)	69,872 (4.9 %)	63,024 (16.3 %)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	9,265	9,637 (-3.9 %)	10,112 (-8.4 %)	8,134 (13.9 %)
Other loans for use in H.K.	698,148	689,368 (1.3 %)	672,947 (3.7 %)	599,267 (16.5 %)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	923,020	882,678 (4.6 %)	852,910 (8.2 %)	485,628 (90.1 %)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	138,028	135,839 (1.6 %)	125,893 (9.6 %)	105,411 (30.9 %)
Loans in HK\$	616,665	607,018 (1.6 %)	590,715 (4.4 %)	538,757 (14.5 %)
Loans in foreign currencies	1,225,082	1,181,591 (3.7 %)	1,141,020 (7.4 %)	722,708 (69.5 %)
Total loans and advances	1,841,747	1,788,609 (3.0 %)	1,731,734 (6.4 %)	1,261,465 (46.0 %)

* Adjusted for foreign currency swap deposits

Note : 'Restricted licence banks' and 'deposit-taking companies' were known as 'licensed deposit-taking companies' and 'registered deposit-taking companies' respectively before 1 February 1990.

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NOMINATION FOR UC/RC ELECTIONS STARTS MONDAY

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NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY (MARCH 11) AND WILL LAST FOR TWO WEEKS UNTIL MARCH 25, THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE MR SUEN SAID CANDIDATES WOULD BE CONTESTING 27 SINGLE-SEAT CONSTITUENCIES - 15 IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA AND 12 THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA.

"WITH THE SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS LAST SUNDAY, HONG KONG STARTS PREPARING FOR THE SECOND MAJOR ELECTION OF THE YEAR, WHICH WILL BE HELD ON MAY 5 (SUNDAY)," HE SAID.

"ANY REGISTERED ELECTOR WHO HAS BEEN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR THE 10 YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING NOMINATION IS QUALIFIED TO STAND FOR ELECTION. HE OR SHE CAN BE NOMINATED FOR ANY CONSTITUENCY," MR SUEN SAID.

"EACH NOMINATION HAS TO BE SUBSCRIBED BY A PROPOSER, A SECONDER AND ANOTHER EIGHT NOMINATORS. ALL THESE 10 SUBSCRIBERS HAVE TO BE REGISTERED ELECTORS IN THE CONSTITUENCY IN WHICH THE CANDIDATE IS SEEKING ELECTION. EACH SUBSCRIBER MAY ONLY NOMINATE ONE CANDIDATE AS ALL CONSTITUENCIES ARE SINGLE-SEATED," HE ADDED.

BEFORE LODGING HIS NOMINATION PAPER, A CANDIDATE HAD TO PLACE A DEPOSIT OF \$5,000 WITH THE TREASURY AND THIS WOULD BE REFUNDED IF HE POLLED NOT LESS THAN FIVE PER CENT OF THE VALID VOTES CAST.

NOMINATION FORMS AND GUIDANCE NOTES FOR CANDIDATES COULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE.

"COMPLETED NOMINATION PAPERS MUST BE LODGED IN PERSON BY THE CANDIDATE OR HIS PROPOSER OR SECONDER WITH THE RESPECTIVE RETURNING OFFICER OR ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICER. THE DISTRICT OFFICERS ARE THE RETURNING OFFICERS FOR THE ELECTION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS," HE SAID.

MR SUEN SAID THE MAXIMUM LIMIT FOR ELECTION EXPENSES FOR THESE ELECTIONS HAD BEEN INCREASED FROM \$43,000 TO \$70,000 TO KEEP UP WITH INFLATION.

"BOTH THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ARE STATUTORY AND FINANCIALLY AUTONOMOUS BODIES. BETWEEN THEM THEY PROVIDE A VARIETY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES TO THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF HONG KONG.

"THESE SERVICES NOT ONLY ENSURE A CLEANER, HEALTHIER AND MORE ATTRACTIVE LIVING ENVIRONMENT BUT ALSO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A RICHER AND BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE," MR SUEN SAID.

/MR SUEN

MR SUEN APPEALED FOR MORE CIVIC-MINDED PERSONS WHO WERE KEEN TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR EFFORTS TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO COME FORWARD TO SEEK NOMINATION AS CANDIDATES.

"POTENTIAL CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED TO COMPLETE THEIR NOMINATIONS IN GOOD TIME AS ANY ERROR IN THE NOMINATION PAPERS MUST BE RECTIFIED BEFORE THE CLOSE OF NOMINATION. AN INCOMPLETE OR INACCURATE PAPER MAY RENDER THE NOMINATION INVALID," MR SUEN SAID.

HE URGED THOSE WHO VOTED AT THE LAST DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS TO TURN UP AGAIN ON MAY 5. "AND TO THOSE WHO FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER DID NOT VOTE THE LAST TIME I APPEAL TO THEM TO TAKE SPECIAL NOTE OF THE MESSAGE WHICH WE WANT TO BRING TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IN PREPARATION FOR THESE COMING ELECTIONS.

"VOTING IS A CIVIC RIGHT. IT MEANS POWER IN YOUR HANDS. PLEASE EXERCISE IT IN A MEANINGFUL MANNER AND COME TO VOTE," HE ADDED.

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1991 POPULATION CENSUS TO COMMENCE

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A FULL-SCALE POPULATION CENSUS WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN MARCH 15 AND 24 DURING WHICH ALL HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG WILL BE VISITED BY ENUMERATORS TO COLLECT UP-TO-DATE POPULATION STATISTICS.

ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF THE PROJECT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (FRIDAY), THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, MR BENJAMIN MOK APPEALED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT.

"CENSUS DATA ARE VITAL TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR PLANNING PUBLIC SERVICES; THEY ARE ALSO USEFUL TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR FORMULATING BUSINESS STRATEGIES AND APPRAISAL OF MARKET CONDITIONS," HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE CENSUS WOULD COMPRISE A SIMPLE ENUMERATION OF ALL PERSONS BY BASIC CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS AGE, SEX AND RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.

IN ADDITION, A ONE-IN-SEVEN RANDOM SAMPLE OF THE HOUSEHOLDS WOULD BE SELECTED FOR A DETAILED ENUMERATION OF A BROAD RANGE OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS.

"UNLIKE PREVIOUS CENSUSES, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO USE A NEW APPROACH, CALLED THE 'SELF-ENUMERATION' METHOD, IN THE 1991 POPULATION CENSUS FOR COLLECTING INFORMATION FROM HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED TO PROVIDE BASIC INFORMATION ONLY," MR MOK SAID.

BY THIS METHOD, HOUSEHOLDERS HAVE TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRES FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE FORM (THAT IS SELF-ENUMERATION). COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES WILL BE COLLECTED BY ENUMERATORS PERSONALLY DURING THE CENSUS PERIOD.

/THOSE HOUSEHOLDS

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THOSE HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED FOR DETAILED ENUMERATION WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONNAIRE IN ADVANCE. DETAILED POPULATION DATA WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH PERSONAL INTERVIEWS BY VISITING ENUMERATORS FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

MR MOK ADDED THAT THE 1991 POPULATION CENSUS, AS IN PREVIOUS CENSUSES, WOULD COVER ALL PERSONS PRESENT IN HONG KONG AT THE TIME OF THE CENSUS, INCLUDING INMATES OF INSTITUTIONS, PERSONS LIVING ON BOARD OF VESSELS, ALIEN RESIDENTS AND THE ARMED FORCES.

NON-RESIDENTIAL PREMISES WOULD ALSO BE COVERED IN THE CENSUS SO THAT PERSONS LIVING THERE, IF ANY, WOULD NOT BE OMITTED.

QUESTIONNAIRES FOR SIMPLE ENUMERATION WAS BEING SENT OUT AND HOUSEHOLDERS SELECTED FOR DETAILED ENUMERATION WERE ALSO EXPECTED TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION LETTERS OF THE PERSONAL INTERVIEW SHORTLY.

TO FACILITATE HOUSEHOLDERS IN VERIFYING THE IDENTITY OF ENUMERATORS, ALL HOUSEHOLDS WOULD BE INFORMED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT OF THE OFFICERS' NAMES IN ADVANCE.

EACH ENUMERATOR WILL IDENTIFY HIMSELF DURING THE VISIT WITH A CENSUS OFFICER CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT. IF IN DOUBT, HOUSEHOLDERS CAN CHECK THEIR IDENTITY AT THE ENQUIRY HOTLINE 827 1234.

THE FIELD VISITS WILL USUALLY BE CARRIED OUT FROM 10 AM TO 10 PM DAILY DURING THE 10-DAY CENSUS PERIOD.

THE 1991 POPULATION CENSUS IS TAKEN UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER, MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE WHICH STIPULATES THAT ALL PERSONS SHOULD PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION.

THIS LARGE-SCALE PROJECT, WHICH HAS BEEN TAKING A LONG PREPARATION TIME, IS ESTIMATED TO COST \$180 MILLION.

MR MOK ASSURED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT ALL INDIVIDUAL DATA COLLECTED WOULD BE TREATED STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

"AS INFORMATION COLLECTED FROM THE CENSUS WILL BE USED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY, NO OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CAN HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION RELATING TO INDIVIDUALS," HE SAID.

HE CALLED UPON MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS MEANINGFUL PROJECT BY RENDERING FULL SUPPORT AND PROVIDING ACCURATE INFORMATION.

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PROPOSED RECLAMATION IN NORTH TSING YI

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO UNDERTAKE RECLAMATION WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 2.7 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED IN NORTH TSING YI AND NGAU KOK WAN.

THE RECLAMATION WILL PROVIDE LAND FOR A WORKS AREA FOR CONTRACTORS AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BARGING POINT WHICH WILL BE USED FOR REMOVING EXCAVATED MATERIAL TO BE USED AS FILL MATERIAL FOR THE NEW AIRPORT.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE MAY 7.

THE NOTICE OF SUCH OBJECTION SHALL DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT IS TO CARRY OUT THREE PROJECTS IN TUEN MUN AND AT HEI LING CHAU.

IN TUEN MUN, AUTHORISATION HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF JETTIES WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 9,450 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF LOK ON PAI.

THIS IS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BERTHING FACILITIES AT SUFFICIENT WATER DEPTH FOR THE LOADING, UNLOADING AND TRANSPORTATION OF MATERIALS, PLANT AND EQUIPMENTS FOR FUTURE CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

ALSO IN TUEN MUN, THE GOVERNMENT IS TO CONSTRUCT AN INVERTED SIPHON WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,750 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED UNDER THE NULLAH BETWEEN AREAS 16 AND 18.

THE SIPHON WILL FORM PART OF THE PROPOSED TRUNK SEWER WHICH WILL SERVE THE FUTURE POPULATION IN THE EASTERN EXTENSION AREA.

AT HEI LING CHAU, A CARGO HANDLING PIER WILL BE BUILT WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,250 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED TO FACILITATE THE HANDLING OF THE LARGE VOLUME OF CARGO INCLUDING RATIONS, CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS/FINISHED PRODUCTS, FUEL, FOR THE TWO DETENTION CENTRES AND THE TWO PENAL INSTITUTIONS ON THE ISLAND.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREAS AFFECTED IN THESE PROJECTS WAS DESCRIBED IN NOTICES OF AUTHORISATION PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

/ANY PERSON

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE INJURIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE ABOVE UNDERTAKINGS MAY DELIVER TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ON OR BEFORE MARCH 7 NEXT YEAR.

HE SHOULD STATE IN HIS SUBMISSION THE SUM OF MONEY WHICH HE IS WILLING TO ACCEPT IN FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF HIS CLAIM AND SHOULD SUBMIT SUCH PARTICULARS WHICH HE POSSESSES TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIM.

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MORE TO BENEFIT FROM LEGAL AID

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MORE PEOPLE WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR LEGAL AID UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE OBJECT OF THE LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, WHICH IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY), IS TO AMEND THE LEGAL AID ORDINANCE TO GIVE EFFECT TO A NEW SYSTEM OF MEANS TESTING IN ASSESSING ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL AID.

THE NEW 'FINANCIAL CAPACITY' APPROACH WAS INTENDED TO ACHIEVE A FAIRER SYSTEM OF ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, AN APPLICANT WILL BE ASSESSED ACCORDING TO HIS FINANCIAL RESOURCES, WHICH ARE DEFINED AS BEING THE SUM OF HIS DISPOSABLE ANNUAL INCOME AND CAPITAL.

IF THE AGGREGATE FIGURE DOES NOT EXCEED \$120,000, THE APPLICANT WILL BE ELIGIBLE ON MEANS GROUNDS FOR LEGAL AID IN BOTH CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES.

AT PRESENT, AN APPLICANT IS MEANS TESTED SEPARATELY ON HIS CAPITAL AND INCOME, AND HE HAS TO SATISFY THE CRITERIA OF BOTH TESTS BEFORE HE IS ELIGIBLE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS SYSTEM WORKED TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF PERSONS WHOSE FINANCIAL RESOURCES CONSISTED MAINLY OF EITHER INCOME OR CAPITAL, AND IN FAVOUR OF THOSE WHO MAY HAVE THE SAME AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES BUT SPREAD BETWEEN BOTH INCOME AND CAPITAL.

"THE NEW APPROACH WILL AVOID THE ANOMALIES OF SEPARATE CAPITAL AND INCOME MEANS TESTS," HE EXPLAINED.

FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW SYSTEM OF USING COMBINED INCOME AND CAPITAL TO ASSESS LEGAL AID ELIGIBILITY, A NEW GRADUATED SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE BY AIDED PERSONS TOWARDS THEIR OWN COSTS WILL REPLACE THE CURRENT SCALE. NO CONTRIBUTION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THOSE WHOSE FINANCIAL CAPACITY IS \$50,000 OR LESS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE OPPORTUNITY WAS BEING TAKEN TO AMEND THE LAW TO IMPROVE CERTAIN EXISTING LEGAL AID PRACTICES SUGGESTED BY OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE.

THE MORE IMPORTANT CHANGES INCLUDE PROVIDING THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID WITH THE AUTHORITY TO REFUSE AN APPLICATION FOR LEGAL AID FROM APPLICANTS WHO REMAIN OUT OF HONG KONG FOR A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS AFTER SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION FOR LEGAL AID, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ASSESS THEIR LEGAL AID ELIGIBILITY.

SIMILARLY AFFECTED WILL BE THOSE WHO MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT WHILST AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF THEIR APPLICATIONS. THE AMENDMENT AIMS TO CLOSE A LOOPHOLE IN THE LAW AND REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF ABUSE.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY LEGAL AID SCHEME TO COVER EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION CLAIMS.

AT PRESENT, AN APPLICANT UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY LEGAL AID SCHEME WHO IS SEEKING COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES CANNOT BE ASSISTED IN HIS CLAIM FOR EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION, ALTHOUGH HE IS ELIGIBLE FOR LEGAL AID FOR THE SUBSEQUENT COMMON LAW CLAIM.

"SINCE THE TWO CLAIMS ARE CLOSELY LINKED AND MUCH OF THE EVIDENCE IS COMMON TO BOTH, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE SUPPLEMENTARY LEGAL AID SCHEME SHOULD EXTEND TO COVER BOTH CLAIMS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE COST OF ADOPTING A MAXIMUM FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF \$120,000 FOR DETERMINATION OF LEGAL AID ELIGIBILITY, COMBINED WITH A GRADUATED SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS, WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$25 MILLION EACH YEAR.

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1990 BATHING BEACHES WATER QUALITY REPORT ANNOUNCED

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED DETAILS OF A REPORT ENTITLED "BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG, 1990".

THE EPD'S PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR PAUL HOLMES, SAID THE REPORT REVIEWED THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF THE BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG IN THE BATHING SEASON OF 1990.

HE SAID THE REPORT ANALYSED THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY TRENDS OF BATHING BEACHES. IT ALSO DISCUSSED THE SOURCES OF POLLUTION OF BEACHES IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS AND THE REMEDIAL ACTIONS REQUIRED.

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION TO BEACH-GOERS ON THE LATEST WATER QUALITY AT BEACHES AND THE ASSOCIATED RISK TO HEALTH OF SWIMMING AT THEM WAS ALSO PROVIDED.

THE REPORT STATED THAT THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY AT ANGLERS', KADOORIE, ROCKEY BAY AND TING KAU BEACHES WAS BARELY ACCEPTABLE FOR SWIMMING, WHEREAS OLD CAFETERIA AND CASTLE PEAK BEACHES ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR SWIMMING.

MR HOLMES SAID THE GENERAL MOMENTUM TOWARDS IMPROVEMENT IN BACTERIOLOGICAL BEACH WATER QUALITY, BUILT UP DURING 1988 AND 1989, HAD CONTINUED INTO 1990, WITH A TOTAL NUMBER OF 16 GAZETTED BEACHES RANKED GOOD; 19 ACCEPTABLE; AND FIVE BARELY ACCEPTABLE.

A SUMMARY OF THE RANKING OF ALL GAZETTED AND NON-GAZETTED BEACHES IN THE SWIMMING SEASON OF 1990 WAS PRESENTED IN THE REPORT.

SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY AT SEVERAL BEACHES SUCH AS DEEP WATER BAY, MIDDLE BAY, REPULSE BAY AND SILVERSTRAND HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AS A RESULT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VARIOUS MEASURES.

THESE MEASURES INCLUDE "FIRST-AID" WORKS TO DIVERT POLLUTING FLOWS AWAY FROM BEACHES, ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE IN WATER CONTROL ZONES; AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME.

IN ADDITION, THE REPORT ALSO REVIEWED THE INCIDENCES OF ALGAL BLOOMS AT BEACHES IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

THE REPORT, AT \$30 A COPY, IS AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

MR HOLMES SAID AS IN THE PAST YEAR, THE GRADINGS ON WATER QUALITY OF BATHING BEACHES WILL BE ANNOUNCED ONCE EVERY FORTNIGHT DURING THE SWIMMING SEASON, THIS YEAR, THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE ON APRIL 12.

HOWEVER, GRADINGS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED FOR THOSE BEACHES WHICH ARE CLOSED TO SWIMMERS BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE EPD'S PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR PAUL HOLMES, ON TELEPHONE NUMBER 835 1234.

BILL TO EXPAND HK'S TRADE MARK LAWS

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HONG KONG INTENDS TO EXPAND ITS TRADE MARK LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROTECTION OF TRADE MARKS USED IN CONNECTION WITH SERVICES, THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, MISS ALICE TAI, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES WERE CONTAINED IN THE TRADE MARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

MISS TAI SAID HONG KONG HAD LONG HAD A SYSTEM FOR THE REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS USED ON GOODS.

HOWEVER, SHE SAID, THERE HAD BEEN A WORLD-WIDE TREND TOWARDS PROVIDING SIMILAR PROTECTION FOR TRADE MARKS USED IN CONNECTION WITH SERVICES.

THIS TREND HAD BEEN GIVEN ADDED IMPETUS BY DISCUSSIONS HELD IN GENEVA IN CONNECTION WITH THE URUGUAY ROUND TALKS UNDER THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) WHICH WOULD OBLIGE THE GATT MEMBERS TO INTRODUCE PROTECTION FOR SERVICE MARKS.

MISS TAI SAID THE SYSTEM FOR THE REGISTRATION AND PROTECTION OF TRADE MARKS FOR GOODS WAS WELL ESTABLISHED AND HELPED TO PREVENT THE SALE OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS.

"TRADERS IN GOODS INVEST HEAVILY IN PROMOTING TRADE MARKS SUCH AS BRAND NAMES AND LOGOS, BECAUSE MODERN MARKETING TECHNIQUES RELY ON THE ABILITY OF CONSUMERS TO IDENTIFY TRADE MARKS ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE GOODS," SHE SAID.

"TRADERS IN GOODS FEEL CONFIDENT INVESTING IN THE PROMOTION OF THEIR MARKS IN HONG KONG, BECAUSE THERE IS AN EFFECTIVE REGISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM HERE," SHE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE ADVANTAGES OF REGISTRATION ENJOYED BY OWNERS OF TRADE MARKS IN GOODS HAD NOT BEEN SHARED BY THOSE IN THE SERVICES SECTOR.

THOSE IN THIS SECTOR OFTEN HAD TO RESORT TO THE COMMON LAW PASSING OFF ACTION TO PROTECT THEIR REPUTATION IN A MARK.

THIS PROCEDURE WAS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT AND EXPENSIVE THAN TAKING ACTION TO PROTECT A REGISTERED MARK, SHE SAID.

IN ADDITION THE LATEST STATISTICS AVAILABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT INDICATED THAT THE SERVICES SECTOR CONTRIBUTED ALMOST 67 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) AND PROVIDED ABOUT 54 PER CENT OF ALL EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG.

MAJOR SERVICES, SUCH AS SHIPPING, BANKING, INSURANCE, TOURISM, TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, HAD RECENTLY GROWN STRONGLY.

/THESE INDUSTRIES,

THESE INDUSTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH OPERATED GLOBALLY, WOULD WELCOME THE CHANGES, AND SMALLER LOCAL SERVICE INDUSTRIES, SUCH AS LAUNDRIES, HAIRDRESSERS AND CAR REPAIRERS, WOULD ALSO BENEFIT, MISS TAI SAID.

SHE SAID RETAILING WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN HONG KONG AND, ALTHOUGH SOME SERVICE MARK SYSTEMS OVERSEAS DID NOT ALLOW REGISTRATION OF MARKS BY THE RETAIL INDUSTRY, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT TRADE MARKS FOR "RETAIL" SERVICES SHOULD BE REGISTRABLE IN HONG KONG.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE DECIDED TO INTRODUCE A SYSTEM OF PROTECTION FOR TRADE MARKS FOR SERVICES," MISS TAI SAID. THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED THAT THERE WOULD BE A GREAT DEMAND FOR THE REGISTRATION OF SERVICE MARKS, SHE SAID.

MISS TAI SAID IF THE LEGISLATION WAS ENACTED IT WOULD COME INTO EFFECT ON A DATE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

NO FIRM DATE FOR INTRODUCTION COULD YET BE GIVEN, BUT PLANNING WAS IN HAND FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992.

"THE GRACE PERIOD WILL ALLOW THE TRADE MARKS REGISTRY TO ESTABLISH THE REQUIRED PROCEDURES AND FOR TRADERS AND THE PROFESSION TO ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH THE NEW LAWS," SHE SAID.

TO AVOID A SUDDEN INFLUX OF APPLICATIONS THE REGISTRY PROPOSED TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION UP TO FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT DATE. ALL SUCH APPLICATIONS WOULD STILL ONLY BE EFFECTIVE FROM THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT.

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PAYMENTS TO THREE ACCIDENT COMPENSATION SCHEMES ADJUSTED

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (FRIDAY) APPROVED THE ALLOCATION OF ABOUT \$7.9 MILLION AS ADJUSTMENTS TO PAYMENTS UNDER THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND, THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME AND THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND.

THE ADJUSTMENTS WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE HAD RECENTLY CONDUCTED A REVIEW OF THE SCHEMES AND RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING:

- * THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE VARIOUS GRANTS BE RESTATED;
- * THAT THE MAXIMUM ELIGIBILITY PERIOD FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE INJURY GRANT BE EXTENDED FROM THREE MONTHS OF SICK LEAVE TO SIX MONTHS, BUT THAT IT SHOULD CEASE TO BE PAYABLE FROM THE DATE WHEN THE VICTIM BECOMES ELIGIBLE FOR THE DISABILITY GRANT OR UPON THE DEATH OF THE VICTIM;

/* THAT THE

- * THAT THE SAME EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY PERIOD BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THE INTERIM ADJUSTMENT GRANT (TO BE KNOWN AS THE INTERIM MAINTENANCE GRANT), BUT THAT IT SHOULD CEASE TO BE PAID UPON THE DEATH OF THE VICTIM;
- * THAT THE BURIAL GRANT BE BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH THAT PAYABLE UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE (ECO); AND
- * THAT THE DISCRETIONARY ENHANCEMENT OF GRANTS UNDER THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME BE EXTENDED TO COVER VICTIMS OF RAPE AND CASES OF FIGHTING CRIME IN WHICH THE VICTIM, SUBSEQUENT TO THE EVENT GIVING RISE TO A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION, HAS MADE EXEMPLARY EFFORTS, IN THE FACE OF PERSONAL EMBARRASSMENT, INCONVENIENCE OR DANGER, TO ASSIST THE POLICE IN THE ARREST OR THE PROSECUTION OF AN OFFENDER OR SUSPECTED OFFENDER.

"THE BASES FOR THE CALCULATION OF THE DEATH AND PERSONAL INJURY GRANTS WERE LAST REVISED IN DECEMBER 1981," THE SPOKESMAN NOTED.

DETAILS OF THE REVISED DEATH AND PERSONAL INJURY GRANT PAYMENT SCHEME SCHEDULE UNDER THE THREE SCHEMES ARE SHOWN AS BELOW:

TYPE -----	LEVEL OF PAYMENT -----
(A) INJURY GRANT - TO MEET ADDITIONAL OUTGOINGS (MEDICAL CHARGES, SPECIAL OR TONIC FOOD, TRAVELLING EXPENSES AND SO ON) ON A SHORTER-TERM THAN DISABILITY GRANT, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE INJURED PERSON IS A WAGE-EARNER.	\$297 FOR EACH OF THE FIRST 10 DAYS SICK LEAVE AND \$127 PER DAY THEREAFTER UP TO 170 DAYS (MAKING A TOTAL OF 180 DAYS OF SICK LEAVE), SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM OF \$24,560. INJURY GRANT SHOULD CEASE FROM THE DATE ON WHICH THE VICTIM BECOMES ELIGIBLE FOR THE DISABILITY GRANT, OR UPON THE DEATH OF THE VICTIM.
(B) INTERIM MAINTENANCE GRANT - TO RELIEVE THE IMMEDIATE HARDSHIP CAUSED BY LOSS OF WAGE, IN THE CASE OF A WAGE-EARNER, OR TO MEET ADDITIONAL OUTGOINGS (FOR EXAMPLE HOME-HELPING OR CHILD-MINDING EXPENSES) IN THE CASE OF A NON-WAGE-EARNING PARENT WHERE THERE ARE CHILDREN UNDER 15.	AT THE RATE OF \$4,240 PER MONTH FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS (ONE MONTH IS REGARDED AS 30 DAYS) (BASED ON THE AVERAGE MONTHLY WAGE, PLUS FRINGE BENEFITS, FOR A MANUFACTURING WORKER). PAYMENT OF THIS GRANT CEASES UPON THE DEATH OF THE VICTIM.

/(C) DISABILITY GRANT

- (C) DISABILITY GRANT UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$61,030, ABATED TO TWO-THIRDS FOR VICTIMS AGED 60 AND OVER, DISCOUNTED ON ACCOUNT OF DEGREE OF DISABILITY AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.
- TO MEET ADDITIONAL OUTGOINGS INCURRED BY THE VICTIM (MEDICAL AND OTHER EXPENSES, FOR EXAMPLE COST OF HIRING A PERSON TO TAKE CARE OF THE DISABLED).
- (MAXIMUM IS SET AT 120 PER CENT OF THE DEATH GRANT PAYABLE TO THE FIRST DEPENDANT FAMILY MEMBER UNDER (D) (I) BELOW.)
- (D) DEATH GRANT
- (I) LOSS OF THE SOLE WAGE-EARNER WHERE THERE ARE DEPENDANTS: \$50,860 FOR ONE DEPENDANT FAMILY MEMBER PLUS \$4,240 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL DEPENDANT FAMILY MEMBER UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$72,060 (BASED ON THE AVERAGE MONTHLY WAGE, PLUS FRINGE BENEFITS, FOR A MANUFACTURING WORKER; THE GRANT FOR THE FIRST FAMILY MEMBER IS 12 TIMES THE MONTHLY WAGE WHILE THAT FOR EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER IS ONE MONTH'S WAGE.)
- TO RELIEVE THE IMMEDIATE HARDSHIP CAUSED BY LOSS OF WAGE.
- (II) LOSS OF A WAGE-EARNER WHERE THERE ARE DEPENDANTS AND ANOTHER WAGE-EARNER REMAINING IN THE FAMILY: \$25,430 FOR ONE DEPENDANT FAMILY MEMBER PLUS \$4,240 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL DEPENDANT FAMILY MEMBER UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$46,630 (ON THE SAME BASIS AS FOR (I) ABOVE; THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT THE GRANT FOR THE FIRST FAMILY MEMBER IS 50 PER CENT OF THAT PAYABLE AT (I) ABOVE).
- TO RELIEVE THE IMMEDIATE HARDSHIP CAUSED BY LOSS OF WAGE.
- (III) LOSS OF A PARENT WHO WAS NOT A WAGE-EARNER WHERE THERE ARE CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE: \$25,430 FOR ONE CHILD UNDER 15 PLUS \$4,240 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD UNDER 15, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$46,630 (ON THE SAME BASIS AS FOR (II) ABOVE).
- TO MEET ADDITIONAL OUTGOINGS (FOR EXAMPLE HIRING A CHILD-MINDER OR HOME-HELPER).
- (E) BURIAL GRANT \$6,000 PER PERSON (BASED ON THE BURIAL EXPENSES PORTION OF THE CEILING UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE).
- TO MEET BURIAL EXPENSES AT A REASONABLE LEVEL REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE DECEASED WAS A WAGE-EARNER.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES REVISED

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA) AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES (SNA) WILL BE INCREASED BY NINE PER CENT FROM NEXT MONTH (APRIL), A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE REVISION OF THE BASIC RATES OF PA AND SNA, WHICH WOULD RESULT IN AN ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL AMOUNT IN PAYMENTS OF \$282 MILLION, WAS APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE THIS AFTERNOON.

"THE ADJUSTMENT OF PA AND SNA PAYMENTS IS IN LINE WITH THE INFLATION RATE SO AS TO MAINTAIN THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE CASH PAYMENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IN ADDITION TO THE BASIC RATE OF \$745, AN ELDERLY PERSON ON PA IS ALSO ENTITLED TO A \$425 OLD AGE ALLOWANCE IF HE IS AGED 70 OR OVER, OR \$373 IF HIS AGE FALLS BELOW 70.

"SHOULD HE NEED TO PAY THE COST OF ACCOMMODATION, A MAXIMUM OF \$488 IN RENT ALLOWANCE WILL BE PAID TO ASSIST HIM," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE FURTHER NOTED THAT THE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATED IN 1991-92 ARISEN FROM THE REVISION WOULD BE \$89.1 MILLION FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME, \$137.8 MILLION FOR OLD AGE ALLOWANCE AND \$54.9 MILLION FOR DISABILITY ALLOWANCE RESPECTIVELY.

DETAILS OF THE NEW RATE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	REVISED AMOUNT (PER MONTH) -----
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE -----	\$
SINGLE PERSON	745
FAMILY : 1ST MEMBER	560
2ND MEMBER	560
3RD MEMBER	550
4TH MEMBER	550
5TH AND EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER	540
OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT -----	
* FOR A PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT WHO IS AGED 60-69 AND IS NOT IN RECEIPT OF A SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE	373
* FOR A PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT WHO IS AGED 70 OR OVER AND IS NOT IN RECEIPT OF A SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE	425

/DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT -----

DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT 373

(FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT WHO IS PARTIALLY DISABLED AND IS NOT IN RECEIPT OF AN OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT OR A SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE)

LONG TERM SUPPLEMENT

(FOR THOSE HOUSEHOLDS IN RECEIPT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR 12 MONTHS OR MORE)

- * FOR A SINGLE PERSON 950
* FOR A FAMILY COMPRISING TWO TO FOUR MEMBERS 1,900
* FOR A FAMILY COMPRISING FIVE OR MORE MEMBERS 2,850

MEAL ALLOWANCE 128

(FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING FULL-DAY SCHOOLS AND ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE LUNCH AWAY FROM HOME)

SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES

- * OLD AGE ALLOWANCE -
(I) NORMAL RATE 373
(FOR THOSE AGED 65-69)
(II) HIGHER RATE 425
(FOR THOSE AGED 70 AND OVER)
* DISABILITY ALLOWANCE -
(I) NORMAL RATE 745
(II) HIGHER RATE 1,490
(FOR THOSE IN NEED OF CONSTANT ATTENDANCE)

REGULATIONS TO REMOVE GREY AREAS IN DANGEROUS GOODS STORAGE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS UPDATED THE DANGEROUS GOODS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS TO CLARIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS.

THE DANGEROUS GOODS (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 1991, PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY), WILL COME INTO IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS, THE MANUFACTURE AND STORAGE OF PERMANENT GASES IN BULK WILL REQUIRE A LICENCE.

"THIS IS TO BRING PERMANENT GASES UNDER THE SAME LICENCE CONTROL AS THAT CURRENTLY APPLIED TO LIQUEFIED GASES," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

HE SAID THE LICENCE FEE WOULD BE \$590 PER TANK PER ANNUM FOR PERMANENT GASES IN LINE WITH THE LEVEL OF FEES FOR THE STORAGE OF LIQUEFIED GASES.

"THIS LICENSING REQUIREMENT DOES NOT APPLY TO TOWN GAS MANUFACTURED BY THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY LIMITED," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW REGULATIONS ALSO PROVIDED THAT THE STORAGE TIME, AT AN APPROVED CONTAINER TERMINAL, OF CERTAIN TRANSHIPMENT FREIGHT CONTAINER OF DANGEROUS GOODS MIGHT BE EXTENDED FROM 72 HOURS TO SEVEN DAYS, UPON APPROVAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE.

"THE EXTENSION TAKES INTO ACCOUNT A REQUEST BY THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY THAT SUCH CONTAINERS MIGHT HAVE TO WAIT FOR A LONGER PERIOD FOR THE CONNECTING VESSEL AFTER LANDING AT A TERMINAL," HE SAID.

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DTC REGISTRATION REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF INDOSUEZ FINANCE HONG KONG LIMITED, AEB FINANCE LIMITED AND DAO HENG CREDIT LIMITED AS DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES HAS BEEN REVOKED AS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY (FRIDAY) AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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RS HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF ELECTIONS

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FOR THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE ORGANISING OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE RESIDENTS' SOCIAL AWARENESS.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, SAID THIS TONIGHT (FRIDAY) AT A SPRING RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE HONG KONG YOUTH CULTURAL AND ARTS COMPETITION ORGANISING COMMITTEE.

CITING THE GOOD RESPONSE IN THE RECENT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, MR LAN SAID THIS INDICATED THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WERE VERY CONCERNED WITH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TERRITORY.

MR LAN ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS IN THE FORTHCOMING MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON MAY 5 AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 15.

EARLIER, MR LAN PAID TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR TAKING TIME OFF FROM THEIR HEAVY BUSINESS COMMITMENTS TO PLAN AND ORGANISE THE MANY COMPETITIONS FOR HONG KONG YOUNGSTERS.

"THESE COMPETITIONS PROVIDE VALUABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUNGSTERS TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL AND ENABLE THEM TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES," HE SAID.

MR LAN POINTED OUT THAT IN THE PAST, THE HONG KONG YOUTH CULTURAL AND ARTS COMPETITION MAINLY SOUGHT TO PROMOTE ARTS AND CULTURE AMONG YOUNGSTERS.

"RECENTLY, THE COMPETITION ALSO STRESSES CIVIC AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS," HE NOTED.

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WORK OF FIRE SERVICES DEPT PRAISED

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THE WORK OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WON PRAISE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, SIR WILLIAM STONES, TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PASSING OUT PARADE OF 14 STATION OFFICERS, 18 FIREMEN AND 23 AMBULANCEMEN AT THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL AT PAT HEUNG, SIR WILLIAM SAID HONG KONG PEOPLE WERE PROUD OF THE DEPARTMENT WHICH WAS INTERNATIONALLY RESPECTED FOR ITS EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS.

"IN 1990 THE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED TO MORE THAN 38,000 FIRE AND SPECIAL SERVICES CALLS, SAVING LIVES AND PROPERTY OF PEOPLE IN THE TERRITORY.

"IN THE COURSE OF DUTY 52 FIREMEN RECEIVED INJURIES -- SOME OF WHOM ARE STILL IN HOSPITAL. THIS IS AN INDICATION OF THE BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY THAT EXISTS WITHIN YOUR DEPARTMENT, AND AS SUCH EARNS MY BEST REGARDS AND RESPECT.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT THESE ADMIRABLE ATTITUDES ARE RESPECTED AND ADMIRED BY ALL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," SIR WILLIAM SAID.

SIR WILLIAM ALSO PRAISED THE AMBULANCE SERVICE WHICH HE SAID WAS COMPARABLE TO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD IN THE RECOVERY OF CASUALTIES AND THE CONVEYANCE OF PATIENTS TO HOSPITALS UNDER PROFESSIONAL CARE.

HE NOTED THAT THE AMBULANCE SERVICE DID NOT HAVE AN EASY TIME IN 1990 DURING WHICH THEY RESPONDED TO 433,000 CALLS, ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF WHICH WERE IN RESPECT OF EMERGENCIES.

"THIS YEAR THE AMBULANCE SERVICE HAS COMMENCED THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN PARAMEDICAL SERVICES. AMBULANCEMEN ARE THEREFORE PROGRESSING ALONG A COURSE WHICH LEADS TOWARDS A MORE SOPHISTICATED AND HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FOR THE POPULATION OF HONG KONG.

"IN ADDITION TO THE OPERATION OF THESE VALUABLE SERVICES THE DEPARTMENT IS ADMIRED FOR ITS PERSISTENCE AND COMPETENCE IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY," SIR WILLIAM SAID.

"IN THE FORTHCOMING YEARS WHEN CHANGES MAY BECOME NECESSARY, YOUR DETERMINATION AND GREAT SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY WILL BE ESSENTIAL IN MAINTAINING TRUST AND STABILITY," HE TOLD THE GRADUATING RECRUITS.

SIR WILLIAM LATER PRESENTED BEST RECRUIT AWARDS TO STATION OFFICER FUNG CHI-FAI, FIREMAN FONG KWOK-NING AND AMBULANCEMAN LAI TAK-SANG, FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES DURING TRAINING.

THE BEST RECRUIT STATION OFFICER FUNG CHI-FAI HAD ALSO BEEN AWARDED THE BEST RECRUIT FIREMAN WHEN HE COMPLETED TRAINING AT THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL IN JULY 1985.

THROUGH HIS HARD WORK, HE WAS POSTED TO THE TSEUNG KWAN O FIRE STATION WHERE A NEW SPECIAL TRAINING SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED TO TRAIN ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED FIREMEN TO ATTAIN THE STATION OFFICER GRADE.

SO FAR, 14 PARTICIPANTS HAD SUCCEEDED IN JOINING THE STATION OFFICER GRADE.

PUBLIC INQUIRY OF AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING AUTHORITY
TO START NEXT WEEK

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THE AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING AUTHORITY (ATLA) WILL HOLD A PUBLIC INQUIRY NEXT WEEK TO CONSIDER THREE APPLICATIONS BY AIR HONG KONG LIMITED (AHK) TO OPERATE SCHEDULED ALL-CARGO AIR SERVICES TO 80 CITIES WORLDWIDE (63 NEW POINTS AND 17 POINTS WHICH AHK HAS ALREADY BEEN LICENSED TO SERVE).

THE NEED FOR THE INQUIRY IS PROMPTED BY OBJECTIONS FROM CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS LIMITED AND HONG KONG DRAGON AIRLINES LIMITED.

SEVENTEEN SUPPORTERS, LARGELY FREIGHT FORWARDERS, HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE AHK'S APPLICATIONS.

JOINING THE CHAIRMAN OF ATLA, MR JUSTICE R.J. PENLINGTON, FOR THIS INQUIRY WILL BE PANEL MEMBERS MESSRS N.A. RIGG; STEPHEN LAU MAN-LUNG; DENNIS LAM HAW-SHUN AND RONALD J. ARCULLI.

THE INQUIRY IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL TAKE PLACE IN COURT 12, SIXTH FLOOR, SUPREME COURT, QUEENSWAY.

THE HOURS OF THE SITTING WILL BE FROM 9.30 AM TO 1 PM AND 2.15 PM TO 5 PM EACH DAY.

THE COMING INQUIRY WILL CONSIDER AHK'S GENERAL PLANS FOR LAUNCHING A GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHEDULED AIR SERVICES TO 80 CITIES.

THE ATLA WILL MEET AGAIN AROUND LATE APRIL/EARLY MAY TO CONSIDER THE AHK'S APPLICATIONS ON A POINT-BY-POINT BASIS.

SUCH A TWO-PHASED APPROACH IS REQUIRED BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF DESTINATIONS AND PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE AHK'S CURRENT APPLICATIONS AND IS ACCEPTED BY THE AHK AND THE TWO OBJECTORS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE A FIVE-MINUTE PHOTO SESSION FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AT 9.30 AM ON MARCH 11 (MONDAY), RIGHT BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE INQUIRY.

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HEAVENLY BIRD ADDS COLOUR TO 1991 FLOWER SHOW

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SPREADING ITS BRILLIANT ORANGE, TURQUOISE AND PURPLE PLUMES, THE BIRD OF PARADISE DESCENDED ON SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING TO ADD COLOUR TO THE THOUSANDS OF FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS ON DISPLAY IN THE 1991 HONG KONG FLOWER SHOW.

JOINTLY PRESENTED FOR THE FIFTH YEAR RUNNING BY THE REGIONAL AND URBAN COUNCILS, THE 10-DAY EXTRAVAGANZA IS EXPECTED TO DRAW RECORD CROWDS TO THE SHOWGROUND WHICH COMPRISES SHA TIN TOWN HALL AND THE ADJACENT EIGHT-HECTARE CENTRAL PARK.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, LADY FORD SAID LAST YEAR'S RECORD ATTENDANCE OF 320,000 DEMONSTRATED HOW VERY POPULAR THE FLOWER SHOW HAD BECOME, ADDING THAT SHE EXPECTED THIS YEAR'S SHOW TO BE EVEN BIGGER AND MORE EXCITING.

"THERE IS A WIDE RANGE OF EXHIBITS PRESENTED BY OVER 65 LOCAL AND OVERSEAS LANDSCAPE AND HORTICULTURAL ORGANISATIONS AND I AM SURE THAT ALL VISITORS, YOUNG AND OLD, WILL ENJOY THE MANY BEAUTIFUL AND EXOTIC DISPLAYS."

NOTING THAT THE THEME FLOWER FOR THIS YEAR WAS THE BIRD OF PARADISE, SHE SAID SHE HAD NO DOUBT FLOWER LOVERS WOULD FEEL THEY HAD WANDERED INTO A BOTANICAL PARADISE THEMSELVES.

CONGRATULATING THE TWO COUNCILS FOR STAGING THIS VERY POPULAR SHOW, LADY FORD SAID OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TO BEAUTIFY THE ENVIRONMENT HAD RESULTED IN A GREENER AND MORE PLEASANT HONG KONG.

"THE COMPLETION OF MAJOR PARKS AT SHA TIN, TUEN MUN AND NORTH DISTRICT IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA AND THE REDEVELOPMENT OF KOWLOON PARK AND THE NEW HONG KONG PARK IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA WILL OFFER MUCH ENJOYMENT FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE," SHE SAID.

ADMITTING THAT SHE ENJOYED GARDENING HERSELF, LADY FORD SAID SHE KNEW SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO LEARN A GREAT DEAL FROM THE EXPERIENCED AND EXPERT EXHIBITORS PRESENT FOR THIS YEAR'S SHOW.

IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, SAID THE NATURAL SETTING OF SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK HAD BEEN SUITABLY EXTENDED TO ACCOMMODATE MORE EXHIBITS AND IT WOULD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA, COVER A PERIOD OF 10 DAYS.

"THE SPECIAL DISPLAYS PUT UP BY BOTH COUNCILS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, LOCAL AND OVERSEAS FLORAL ASSOCIATIONS HAVE COLOURED AND ENRICHED THE SETTING OF THE SHOWGROUND AND I BELIEVE ALL VISITORS WILL ENJOY THEMSELVES," HE SAID.

FOLLOWING THE OPENING CEREMONY, LADY FORD, ACCOMPANIED BY MR CHEUNG, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR STEPHEN LAU, AND THE DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES, MR HAIDER BARMA, TOURED THE SHOWGROUND AND EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS YEAR'S MAIN ATTRACTION, THE "FLOWER VALLEY" WHICH FEATURED A WIDE RANGE OF SPRING FLOWERING PLANTS.

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TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S KOWLOON AND NT REGIONAL OFFICES ON MOVE
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THE URBAN (KOWLOON) REGIONAL OFFICE AND THE NEW TERRITORIES REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL OPERATE FROM THEIR NEW PREMISES ON THE SEVENTH TO NINTH FLOORS OF MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 30 LUEN WAN STREET IN KOWLOON FROM TUESDAY (MARCH 12).

THE NEW ENQUIRY TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE KOWLOON OFFICE IS 339 2469 AND THAT FOR THE NT OFFICE IS 339 2532.

THE TWO REGIONAL OFFICES HAVE BEEN HANDLING PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC MATTERS RELATING TO KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES ON THE 25TH FLOOR OF PARK-IN COMMERCIAL BUILDING AT 56 DUNDAS STREET, KOWLOON BEFORE THE REMOVAL.

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AUXILIARY POWER UNIT CONTROLLED AREA EXTENDED
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THE AUXILIARY POWER UNIT (APU) CONTROLLED AREA IN KAI TAK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO THE RECENTLY COMPLETED AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON EXTENSION NEAR RICHLAND GARDENS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE CIVIL AVIATION (AIRCRAFT NOISE) (LIMITATION ON OPERATION OF ENGINES AND AUXILIARY POWER UNITS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1991 ARE GAZETTED TODAY TO INCLUDE THE APRON INTO AN APU CONTROLLED AREA.

"THE EXTENSION OF THE APU CONTROLLED AREA IS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF AIRPORT GROUND NOISE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

OTHER NOISE REDUCTION MEASURES BEING IMPLEMENTED INCLUDE PHASED INSTALLATIONS OF FIXED GROUND POWER, A QUIET SUBSTITUTE FOR APU, HE ADDED.

"OFFENDERS OF THE REGULATIONS ARE LIABLE TO A FINE OF UP TO \$50,000," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AN APU IS A SOURCE OF POWER ON AN AIRCRAFT INDEPENDENT OF THE AIRCRAFT MAIN ENGINES, WHICH IS OPERATED TO PROVIDE POWER TO THE AIRCRAFT, USUALLY WHEN THE MAIN ENGINES ARE NOT IN USE.

THE OPERATION OF APUS IS NECESSARY DURING AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE AND CARGO HANDLING. HOWEVER, THE HIGH-PITCHED NOISE RESULTING FROM THEIR USE HAS BEEN A MAJOR CAUSE OF COMPLAINT FROM RESIDENTS NEAR THE AIRPORT.

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"UNDER THE PRESENT REGULATIONS, THE OPERATION OF APUS IS PROHIBITED WITHIN A SPECIFIED "APU CONTROLLED AREA" BETWEEN 12 MIDNIGHT AND 6 AM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS, THE OPERATION OF APUS MAY BE PERMITTED BETWEEN 11 PM AND 6 AM IN THE ADJACENT AREA WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE AIRPORT.

THESE RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING AIRPORT GROUND NOISE AT NIGHT.

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BREAKTHROUGH IN VOCATIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE DISABLED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL SOON PUT INTO USE A STATE-OF-THE-ART VOCATIONAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM TO HELP ASSESS THE WORKING ABILITIES OF DISABLED JOB-SEEKERS.

THE DEPARTMENT'S SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION PURCHASED THREE ASSESSMENT KITS, KNOWN AS VALPAR COMPONENT WORK SAMPLE SERIES (VCWSS), LAST YEAR WITH FUNDS DONATED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB (RHKJC).

"ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THE DISABLED, THE SYSTEM ENABLES PLACEMENT OFFICERS TO REALISTICALLY AND ACCURATELY ASSESS INDIVIDUAL DISABLED PERSON'S RESIDUAL WORKING ABILITIES FOR PLACEMENT IN THE RIGHT JOB," THE SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (SELECTIVE PLACEMENT), MR HOUDINI HO, EXPLAINED.

"WITH A FURTHER GRANT OF \$175,000 BY THE RHKJC, THE DIVISION HAS RECENTLY ENGAGED AN EXPERT INSTRUCTOR FROM THE USA TO RUN A TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR 20 PLACEMENT OFFICERS ON THE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE ASSESSMENT KIT," MR HO SAID.

"THE PROGRAMME COMPRISES A FIVE-DAY SESSION CONDUCTED BY A CERTIFIED VOCATIONAL EVALUATION SPECIALIST FROM THE PRODUCER OF THE SYSTEM THIS WEEK, AS WELL AS ANOTHER FIVE-DAY FOLLOW-UP SESSION TO BE HELD SIX TO NINE MONTHS LATER.

"UPON COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL TRAINING SESSION, PLACEMENT OFFICERS WILL START USING THE KIT IN JOB-MATCHING AT ALL THE THREE REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE DIVISION," HE ADDED.

THE ADDRESSES OF THE THREE OFFICES ARE:

* HONG KONG OFFICE
HARBOUR BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR,
38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.
TEL. NO. 852 4801

/* KOWLOON OFFICE

- * KOWLOON OFFICE
NGAU TAU KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
GROUND FLOOR AND FIRST FLOOR,
21 ON WAH STREET,
NGAU TAU KOK.
TEL. NO. 755 4835

- * NEW TERRITORIES OFFICE
EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,
50 TEXACO ROAD,
TSUEN WAN.
TEL. NO. 498 8444

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BRIDGE SEGMENT ERECTION FOR KWUN TONG BYPASS COMPLETED

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THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWEI SEE-KAN, TODAY (FRIDAY) OFFICIATED AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF THE BRIDGE SEGMENT ERECTION FOR THE KWUN TONG BYPASS PHASES II & III PROJECT.

MR KWEI SAID: "BOTH PHASES OF THE BYPASS, UPON COMPLETION IN JUNE 1991, WILL FORM PART OF ROUTE 6 IN LINKING THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL, AND, WILL RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION ALONG KWUN TONG ROAD AND WAI YIP STREET.

"IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE ELEVATED CARRIAGEWAY AT THE SAME TIME AS THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL, THIS PROJECT HAS EMPLOYED A SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUE USING A GIANT LAUNCHING GIRDER TO PLACE THE PRECAST BRIDGE SEGMENTS.

"AS RECENTLY INTRODUCED IN HONG KONG, THIS TECHNIQUE HAS PROVED SUCCESSFUL IN CONSTRUCTING 3.7 KILOMETRES OF BRIDGE DECK WITHIN 15 MONTHS, WITH SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS IN LABOUR AND MATERIALS," HE SAID.

THE TWO CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF KWUN TONG BYPASS PHASES II & III WERE AWARDED TO A FRENCH JOINT VENTURE COMPRISING DRAGAGES ET TRAVAUX PUBLICS AND BACHY SOLETANCHE AT A TOTAL COST OF \$1,062 MILLION.

THE KWUN TONG BYPASS IS A 4.8-KILOMETRE ELEVATED CARRIAGEWAY LINKING THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING TO THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL AT PRINCE EDWARD ROAD INTERCHANGE.

THE BYPASS HAS THREE PHASES. PHASE I WHICH EXTENDS FROM THE EXIT OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AT LEI YUE MUN ROAD TO WAI YIP STREET HAS BEEN OPENED TO TRAFFIC SINCE SEPTEMBER 1989.

PHASE II WILL CONNECT PHASE I VIA A DUAL THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY ALONGSIDE THE KWUN TONG TYPHOON SHELTER SEAWALL TO KAI FUK ROAD AT KOWLOON BAY.

PHASE III WILL CONTINUE THE ROUTE WITH A DUAL TWO-LANE ELEVATED CARRIAGEWAY ALONG KAI FUK ROAD AND WANG CHIN STREET AND THEN ALONGSIDE THE AIRPORT PERIMETER TO CONNECT WITH TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL APPROACHES AT PRINCE EDWARD ROAD INTERCHANGE.

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TONNOCHY ROAD FOOTBRIDGE EXTENSION PROPOSED

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO RECONSTRUCT THE EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE AT THE JUNCTION OF GLOUCESTER ROAD AND TONNOCHY ROAD.

THE PROPOSED NEW FOOTBRIDGE WILL INCLUDE A COVER AND ADDITIONAL SPANS ACROSS THE GLOUCESTER ROAD WESTBOUND SERVICE ROAD AND TONNOCHY ROAD TO FACILITATE PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT AT THE ROAD JUNCTION.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- * HONG KONG WEST DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG;
- * WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 2 O'BRIEN ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON WHO OBJECTS TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NOT LATER THAN MAY 7, 1991.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS OPEN TO PUBLIC

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THE GARDENS OF THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON SUNDAY, MARCH 10, FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO SEE THE AZALEAS IN BLOOM.

THE OPEN DAY HAS BEEN AN ANNUAL EVENT SINCE 1968.

/PEOPLE WISHING

PEOPLE WISHING TO VISIT THE GARDENS OF THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE ARE REQUESTED TO ENTER BY THE MAIN GATE AND LEAVE BY THE SIDE GATES SO THAT ALL CAN ENJOY THE FLOWERS WITHOUT CAUSING INCONVENIENCE TO OTHERS.

THEY ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT ONLY THE GARDENS WILL BE OPEN AND THEY SHOULD NOT ENTER THE HOUSE ITSELF.

SCOUTS AND POLICEMEN WILL BE PRESENT AND VISITORS ARE ASKED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THEM TO AVOID OVERCROWDING.

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CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE SECTION MOVES TO MONG KOK

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THE CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS MOVED TO THE MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN LUEN WAN STREET.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND STUDENTS WISHING TO OBTAIN COUNSELLING, ADVICE ON OVERSEAS EDUCATION AND CAREERS SHOULD NOW CALL AT THE NEW MONG KOK OFFICE AND NOT AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE NEW ADDRESS IS MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SECOND FLOOR, 30 LUEN WAN STREET, MONG KOK.

THE ENQUIRIES TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE 398 8131 AND 399 2184.

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FUND DONATION FOR BEST ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDENT-TEACHERS

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, TODAY (FRIDAY) ACCEPTED A DONATION OF \$800,000 FROM SINO GROUP TO FUND FOUR ANNUAL PRIZES FOR THE BEST ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDENT-TEACHERS.

PRESENTING THE CHEQUE WAS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SINO GROUP, MR ROBERT NG.

THE PRIZES, EACH VALUED AT \$10,000, ARE AIMED AT MOTIVATING STUDENT-TEACHERS MAJORING IN ENGLISH AND HELPING TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS HIGHER STANDARDS OF ENGLISH IN THE TERRITORY.

WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED FROM THE FINAL-YEAR STUDENTS IN EACH OF THE FOUR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION -- NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE.

/THE DONATION

THE DONATION HAD BEEN MADE TO THE HONG KONG LANGUAGE CAMPAIGN, WHICH INCLUDES SOME OF HONG KONG'S LARGEST COMPANIES AND AIMS TO HEIGHTEN PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH.

"IF HONG KONG IS TO RETAIN ITS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS, WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT STANDARDS OF ENGLISH NEED TO BE IMPROVED," MR NG SAID, WHEN PRESENTING THE CHEQUE.

HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED OTHER COMPANIES WILL CONSIDER SPONSORING SIMILAR SCHEMES.

THE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE BEST ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDENT-TEACHERS FROM THE FOUR COLLEGES WILL BE SET BY A COMMITTEE WHICH WILL WORK TOWARDS GIVING THE FIRST PRIZES AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

THE PRIZES WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY WHICH ALREADY HANDLES A NUMBER OF EXISTING SCHOLARSHIPS AND MERIT AWARDS.

MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG LANGUAGE CAMPAIGN COMPRISE HONGKONGBANK, HONG KONG TELECOM, HUTCHISON WHAMPOA, THE SWIRE GROUP, SHELL HONG KONG, THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRUST AND INVESTMENT CORP HONG KONG (HOLDINGS) AND YAOHAN INTERNATIONAL.

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AT MAIN ROOF OF NOS. 164, 164A AND 166 TUNG LO WAN ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, SO THAT THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON MAY 8 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS GRANTED.

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GSD FAMILY DAY FOR 1,800 CHILDREN
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THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A FAMILY DAY FOR MORE THAN 1,800 CHILDREN OF ITS STAFF ON SUNDAY (MARCH 10) AFTERNOON, IN THE COMPOUND OF THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AT 12 OIL STREET, NORTH POINT.

THE EVENT WILL START OFF WITH THE DOTTING OF A LION'S EYES BY THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, MR C.L. LAM, AROUND 1 PM, FOLLOWED BY A LION DANCE PERFORMED BY MEMBERS OF THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE SIDE-SHOWS, GAME STALLS, A FIRE ENGINE DISPLAY, SINGING, A KARAOKE SESSION AND A CHINESE WORD PUZZLE COMPETITION. THERE WILL ALSO BE A POLICE DOG DEMONSTRATION, MAGIC AND ACROBATIC SHOWS AND A BEER DRINKING CONTEST.

MUSIC WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES BAND AND THE TAI TAM GIRLS' PIPERS AND MARCHING TEAM.

A PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AND A LUCKY DRAW WILL BE HELD AT THE END OF THE DAY.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT FAMILY DAY TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY (MARCH 10) AFTERNOON IN THE COMPOUND OF THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AT 12 OIL STREET, NORTH POINT. THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 1 PM.

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'GLORY OF LIFE' SINGING CONTEST ON SUNDAY
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TEN YOUNG SINGERS WILL BE COMPETING IN THE "GLORY OF LIFE" SINGING CONTEST ON SUNDAY (MARCH 10) IN THE GRAND THEATRE OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE CONTEST IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL TO SPREAD THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE AND TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN HEALTHY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS ANNIE TANG, POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR PETER FERRY, AND DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR YIP WAH, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CONTEST WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 7.45 PM.

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THE TOP THREE WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED ATTRACTIVE PRIZES AND AN AUDITION WITH A RECORD COMPANY.

THE SINGING CONTEST IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE URBAN COUNCIL. PERFORMING AFTER THE CONTEST WILL BE POPULAR SINGERS MR ANTHONY LUN AND MISS CARMEN WONG.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE "GLORY OF LIFE" SINGING CONTEST WHICH WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (MARCH 10), BEGINNING AT 7.45 PM IN THE GRAND THEATRE OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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FUN DAY FOR TSING YI RESIDENTS

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A TSING YI FUN DAY TO PROMOTE LOCAL RESIDENTS' SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (MARCH 10) AT THE TSING YI SPORTS ASSOCIATION PLAYGROUND.

ORGANISED BY THE TSING YI RURAL COMMITTEE, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE, THE EVENT IS ALSO AIMED AT ENHANCING THE RESIDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE PROGRAMME WILL BE HELD FROM 1.30 PM TO 5 PM, AND WILL FEATURE A VARIETY OF CHILDREN'S GAMES TELEMATCHES AND SINGING.

ADMISSION TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE AT KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING AND ITS SUB-OFFICES ON THE TSING YI ISLAND.

TICKETS WILL ALSO BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE VENUE ON THAT DAY.

OFFICIATING AT THE FUN DAY WILL BE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PAUL TANG; VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW TERRITORIES HEUNG YEE KUK, MR CHAN TIN-SUNG; AND DISTRICT LEISURE MANAGER (KWAI TSING), MR CHAN HON-LEUNG.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FUN DAY WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY (MARCH 10) AT THE TSING YI SPORTS ASSOCIATION PLAYGROUND NEAR TSING YI GARDEN.

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FOUR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS ON ATTACHMENT PROGRAMME IN UK

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FOUR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM NEXT WEEK FOR A SIX-WEEK ATTACHMENT PROGRAMME WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM IMMIGRATION SERVICE.

THEY ARE ACTING SENIOR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS MESSRS MA HING-YEUNG, LIU KIN-CHI, LEE CHI-KEUNG AND ACTING IMMIGRATION OFFICER MISS KU WAI-FUNG.

THEY WILL VISIT BRANCHES OF THE HOME OFFICE HANDLING IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY MATTERS AS WELL AS IMMIGRATION OFFICES AND PORTS.

AT A BRIEFING TODAY (FRIDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR LAURENCE LEUNG, SAID IMMIGRATION WORK HAD BECOME MORE COMPLEX AND MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE WERE REQUIRED TO BE VIGILANT AND ALERT TOWARDS CHANGES THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON GIVING ITS STAFF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

"I HOPE THE ATTACHMENT WOULD ENABLE THE OFFICERS TO WIDEN THEIR HORIZON AND TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORK OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM," MR LEUNG SAID.

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