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CONTENTS

	PAGE NO.
NEW CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW TAKES EFFECT ON DECEMBER 1	1
LEGISLATION PACKAGE TO ENSURE GAS SAFETY	4
CONSULTANCY STUDY ON SUPERCOMPUTING COMMISSIONED	5
AMENDMENTS TO TUEN MUN OZP GAZETTED	6
PRIVATE LOTS TO BE RESUMED FOR DEVELOPMENT	8
TENDERS INVITED FOR PTU DEPOT SITE FORMATION WORK	9
TENDERS FOR PIER EXTENSION WORKS CALLED	9
TAI PO ELDERLY TREATED TO 'YAN YAT' PARTY	10
RHKR RECRUITS JUNIOR LEADERS	10

NEW CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW TAKES EFFECT ON DECEMBER 1

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A MAJOR PIECE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION LEGISLATION, THE CONTROL OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES ORDINANCE, WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

THE COMMENCEMENT NOTICE OF THE ORDINANCE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR PETER CHEUNG, SAID THE ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR AND THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION WAS TO IMPLEMENT THE ORDINANCE 12 MONTHS AFTER ITS ENACTMENT IN ORDER TO GIVE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TIME TO REVIEW THEIR USE OF CONTRACTS AND TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY AMENDMENTS.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS WRITTEN TO BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS TO EXPLAIN THE CHANGES AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL INTENDS TO RUN A SERIES OF SEMINARS FOR BUSINESSMEN TO FURTHER EXPLAIN THE DETAILS OF THE ORDINANCE AND ITS IMPACT ON TRADING PRACTICES," HE SAID.

"THE ORDINANCE IS CONCERNED WITH THOSE EXEMPTION CLAUSES IN CONTRACTS AND NOTICES SEEKING TO EXCLUDE LIABILITY FOR NEGLIGENCE OR BREACH OF CONTRACT. SOME OF THESE CLAUSES AMOUNT TO DENIAL OF A PERSON'S LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND EXPECTATIONS IN A SITUATION WHERE ONE PARTY, BECAUSE OF ITS STRONGER BARGAINING POSITION, IS ABLE TO DICTATE TERMS TO A WEAKER OR LESS SOPHISTICATED PARTY."

MR CHEUNG EXPLAINED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGISLATION WAS BASED ON A RECOMMENDATION OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION WHICH OBSERVED THAT THE USE OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES OFTEN LED TO ABUSE, PARTICULARLY WHERE THE PARTIES TO A CONTRACT DID NOT HAVE EQUAL BARGAINING STRENGTH.

"THE COMMISSION BELIEVED THAT THE BENEFITS OF SOME MEASURE OF CONTROL OUTWEIGHED ANY ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGES WHICH MIGHT BE CAUSED BY THIS LIMITED INTERFERENCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF CONTRACT," HE SAID.

SUMMARISING THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE ORDINANCE, MR CHEUNG SAID IT PROVIDED THAT CERTAIN TYPES OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES WERE AUTOMATICALLY INEFFECTIVE AND CERTAIN OTHER TYPES WERE SUBJECT TO A REASONABLENESS TEST.

THE FOUR TYPES OF CLAUSES THAT ARE AUTOMATICALLY INEFFECTIVE ARE THOSE THAT CANNOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, BE JUSTIFIED. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

* FIRSTLY, AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE RELATING TO DEATH OR PERSONAL INJURY RESULTING FROM NEGLIGENCE.

FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE NOTICES DISPLAYED IN SOME CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS PURPORTING TO EXCLUDE LIABILITY FOR INJURIES CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE PLAYGROUND OPERATOR.

/THERE CAN .....

THERE CAN BE NO JUSTIFICATION IN THAT, OR ANY OTHER SITUATION FOR DENYING A PERSON A REMEDY FOR INJURIES CAUSED BY ANOTHER PERSON'S NEGLIGENCE. THE ORDINANCE, THEREFORE, PUTS AN END TO THE UNFAIRNESS CAUSED BY SUCH CLAUSES.

* SECONDLY, AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE IN A GUARANTEE OF CONSUMER GOODS.

  AT PRESENT, MANY SO-CALLED "GUARANTEES" IN FACT TAKE AWAY GREATER RIGHTS THAN THEY GIVE AND ARE THEREFORE TRAPS FOR CONSUMERS. THE ORDINANCE PREVENTS GUARANTEES OPERATING IN THIS WAY.

* THIRDLY, A CLAUSE IN A CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF GOODS EXCLUDING THE SELLER'S LIABILITY FOR SELLING GOODS WHICH DID NOT BELONG TO HIM.

  IT IS CONSIDERED UNFAIR FOR ANY BUYER TO HAVE TO BEAR THE LOSS CAUSED BY A WRONGFUL ACT OF THE SELLER AND, IN THIS RESPECT, THE ORDINANCE REPLACES A PROVISION THAT ALREADY EXISTS IN THE SALE OF GOODS ORDINANCE.

* FOURTHLY, A CLAUSE IN A CONSUMER CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OR SUPPLY OF GOODS EXCLUDING THE SUPPLIER'S LIABILITY IF THE GOODS ARE DEFECTIVE OR DO NOT CORRESPOND WITH THE CONTRACT DESCRIPTION.

  HERE THE ORDINANCE PROTECTS ONLY PARTIES WHO ARE CONSUMERS, SINCE VERY OFTEN THEY ARE THE WEAKER OR THE LESS SOPHISTICATED PARTY IN A TRANSACTION. ALSO, WHERE A PERSON OR FIRM OBTAINS GOODS IN THE COURSE OF BUSINESS, THERE MAY BE SITUATIONS IN WHICH IT IS REASONABLE FOR HIM TO TAKE THE RISK OF THE GOODS BEING DEFECTIVE.

  THE SALE OF GOODS ORDINANCE ALREADY CONTAINS A PROVISION TO THIS EFFECT IN RELATION TO SALES AND THE CONTROL OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES ORDINANCE EXTENDS THE PROTECTION TO SUPPLY CONTRACTS, FOR EXAMPLE, CONTRACTS OF HIRE AND HIRE-PURCHASE AGREEMENTS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE IS EFFECTIVE ONLY IN SO FAR AS IT SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENT OF REASONABLENESS IF IT PURPORTS TO EXCLUDE OR RESTRICT LIABILITY:

* FIRSTLY, FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE, OTHER THAN DEATH OR PERSONAL INJURY, RESULTING FROM NEGLIGENCE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A FIRM OF DRY CLEANERS NEGLIGENTLY LOSES A SUIT LEFT WITH IT BY A CUSTOMER, A CLAUSE PURPORTING TO LIMIT THE LIABILITY OF THE FIRM IN RESPECT OF THAT LOSS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE REASONABLENESS TEST;

/* SECONDLY, TO .....

* SECONDLY, TO A PERSON DEALING AS CONSUMER, OR OF A PARTY USING HIS OWN WRITTEN STANDARD TERMS OF BUSINESS, IN RESPECT OF BREACH OF CONTRACT. FOR EXAMPLE, IF (I) A WOMAN BOOKS A CAR FOR HER WEDDING DAY AND THE CAR FAILS TO ARRIVE OR (II) A SUPPLIER OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT (WHO USES STANDARD TERMS OF BUSINESS) FAILS TO DELIVER EQUIPMENT CONTRACTED FOR, AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE PURPORTING TO LIMIT THE LIABILITY FOR A BREACH OF CONTRACT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE REASONABLENESS TEST;

* THIRDLY, TO A PERSON DEALING OTHERWISE THAN AS CONSUMER, IN RESPECT OF THE IMPLIED UNDERTAKINGS AS TO THE QUALITY OF GOODS SOLD, OR AS TO THE TITLE TO, OR QUALITY OF GOODS OTHERWISE SUPPLIED. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A PERSON HIRES FOR HIS BUSINESS A PHOTOCOPYING MACHINE AND, ON ARRIVAL, THE MACHINE DOES NOT WORK, A CLAUSE PURPORTING TO EXCLUDE LIABILITY FOR ANY DEFECTS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE REASONABLENESS TEST.

THE REQUIREMENT OF REASONABLENESS ALSO APPLIES:

* FIRSTLY, WHERE ONE PARTY DEALS AS A CONSUMER, OR ON THE OTHER PARTY'S WRITTEN STANDARD TERMS OF BUSINESS, AND THE OTHER PARTY CLAIMS TO BE ENTITLED NOT TO PERFORM ANY OBLIGATION UNDER THE CONTRACT OR TO PERFORM THE CONTRACT IN A WAY THAT IS SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHICH WAS REASONABLY EXPECTED OF HIM. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A PERSON BOOKS WITH A TRAVEL AGENT A CRUISE ON A NAMED SHIP, GOING ON A FIXED ROUTE, A CLAUSE IN THE CONTRACT MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO THE REASONABLENESS TEST IF IT PURPORTED TO ALLOW THE TRAVEL AGENT TO CANCEL THE BOOKING OR TO SUBSTITUTE ANOTHER SHIP OR ROUTE; AND

* SECONDLY, WHERE A CONTRACT TERM PURPORTS TO REQUIRE A PERSON DEALING AS A CONSUMER TO INDEMNIFY ANOTHER PERSON IN RESPECT OF THAT OTHER PERSON'S LIABILITY FOR NEGLIGENCE OR BREACH OF CONTRACT. FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE A RESTAURANT OFFERS A VALET PARKING SERVICE, A CLAUSE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE REASONABLENESS TEST IF IT REQUIRED THE CUSTOMER TO INDEMNIFY THE RESTAURANT AGAINST LOSS CAUSED TO THIRD PARTIES BY THE NEGLIGENT DRIVING OF ITS EMPLOYEE.

"THE ORDINANCE ENABLES THE COURT TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH A CLAUSE IN A FLEXIBLE MANNER," MR CHEUNG SAID.

"IN APPLYING THE TEST OF REASONABLENESS, THE COURTS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE REGARD TO A WIDE RANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO THE LANGUAGE IN WHICH THE TERM OR NOTICE WAS EXPRESSED.

"IN CASES RELATING TO THE SALE OR SUPPLY OF GOODS, THE COURTS ARE DIRECTED TO HAVE REGARD TO THE FACTORS LISTED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE."

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LEGISLATION PACKAGE TO ENSURE GAS SAFETY
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HONG KONG WILL HAVE FOR THE FIRST TIME A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF LEGISLATION TO ENSURE GAS SAFETY TERRITORY-WIDE WITH THE GAZETTAL OF THE GAS SAFETY BILL TODAY (FRIDAY).

DETAILING THE GAS SAFETY BILL AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR MIAO CHI, SAID THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RECENTLY, WOULD RECEIVE ITS FIRST READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 14.

HE SAID IN ADDITION TO THE BILL, SIX SETS OF GAS SAFETY REGULATIONS HAD ALSO BEEN PREPARED FOR IMPLEMENTATION AFTER THE BILL'S ENACTMENT.

MR MIAO POINTED OUT THAT THIS COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF GAS SAFETY LEGISLATION WOULD ENSURE, SO FAR AS WAS REASONABLY PRACTICABLE, THE SAFETY OF GAS CONSUMERS, PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE GAS INDUSTRY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC AGAINST RISKS TO THEIR HEALTH AND SAFETY ARISING OUT OF THE IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURE, STORAGE, TRANSPORT, SUPPLY AND USE OF FUEL-GASES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE LEGISLATION WOULD GIVE LEGISLATIVE BACKING TO THE NUMEROUS GAS SAFETY MEASURES INTRODUCED SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GAS ADVISER'S OFFICE (SINCE RENAMED THE GAS STANDARDS OFFICE) IN 1982.

"IT HAS BEEN DRAWN UP IN FULL CONSULTATION WITH THE GAS INDUSTRY AND WITH THE BENEFIT OF THE EXPERIENCE GAINED BY THE GAS STANDARDS OFFICE AND THE GAS INDUSTRY IN IMPROVING GAS SAFETY STANDARDS SINCE 1982.

"AS A RESULT, THE LEGISLATION IS PROPERLY ADAPTED TO SUIT LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND IS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE GAS INDUSTRY, WHICH AS A WHOLE IS NOW GEARED UP TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS COMPREHENSIVE, WIDE-RANGING LEGISLATION," HE NOTED.

MR MIAO SAID THE GENERAL APPROACH OF THE LEGISLATION WAS TO STATE IN GENERAL TERMS THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET, ALTHOUGH WHERE APPROPRIATE, SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS WERE LAID DOWN, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH RESPECT TO THE SAFE INSTALLATION OF GAS WATER HEATERS.

"HOW THE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS ARE TO BE MET WILL BE SET OUT IN CODES OF PRACTICE DRAWN UP EITHER BY THE RELEVANT PARTS OF THE GAS INDUSTRY FOR GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OR BY THE GAS STANDARDS OFFICE ITSELF," HE ADDED.

MR MIAO SAID SOME OF THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE GAS SAFETY BILL INCLUDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GAS AUTHORITY, A GAS SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND AN APPEALS BOARD TO HEAR APPEALS AGAINST CERTAIN DECISIONS OR ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE AUTHORITY.

/THERE WERE .....

THERE WERE ALSO PROVISIONS FOR THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS AND FOR THE GAS AUTHORITY TO ISSUE AND APPROVE CODES OF PRACTICE, HE SAID.

THE SIX SETS OF REGULATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO IMPLEMENT THE AIMS OF THE BILL ARE:

* GAS SAFETY (GAS QUALITY) REGULATIONS, WHICH SPECIFY SAFETY LIMITS ON THE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF THE FUEL GASES BEING MANUFACTURED IN OR IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG, SO THAT AT ALL TIMES, THE GASES MAY BE SUPPLIED TO PREMISES AND USED IN GAS APPLIANCES WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO SAFETY;

* GAS SAFETY (GAS SUPPLY) REGULATIONS, WHICH WILL IMPOSE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS ON THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES, VEHICLES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT USED IN RELATION TO THE SUPPLY OF GAS TO CONSUMERS;

* GAS SAFETY (REGULATION OF GAS SUPPLY COMPANIES) REGULATIONS, WHICH WILL INTRODUCE A REGISTRATION SCHEME FOR GAS SUPPLY COMPANIES TO ENSURE THAT ONLY COMPETENT ORGANISATIONS IMPORT, MANUFACTURE OR SUPPLY FUEL GASES;

* GAS SAFETY (REGISTRATION OF GAS INSTALLERS AND GAS CONTRACTORS) REGULATIONS, WHICH WILL INTRODUCE REGISTRATION SCHEMES FOR GAS INSTALLERS AND GAS CONTRACTORS TO ENSURE COMPETENCE, AND PROVIDE THAT ONLY REGISTERED GAS INSTALLERS AND GAS CONTRACTORS MAY CARRY OUT GAS INSTALLATION WORK;

* GAS SAFETY (INSTALLATION AND USE) REGULATIONS, WHICH WILL IMPROVE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS ON THE INSTALLATION AND USE OF GAS FITTINGS, INCLUDING GAS APPLIANCES; AND

* GAS SAFETY (MISCELLANEOUS) REGULATIONS, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS, CONTAIN PROVISIONS TO ENSURE THAT ONLY SAFE GAS TUBING IS SUPPLIED.

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CONSULTANCY STUDY ON SUPERCOMPUTING COMMISSIONED

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THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WHICH ADVISES THE GOVERNMENT ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES, HAS COMMISSIONED A $2.5 MILLION CONSULTANCY STUDY ON SUPERCOMPUTING IN HONG KONG AND A REVIEW OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ("IT") ENVIRONMENT AND MANPOWER.

THE CONTRACT FOR THE CONSULTANCY STUDY WAS SIGNED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY DR COLIN GREENFIELD, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, AND DR J.J. WEAVER OF BIS MACKINTOSH LTD.

/BIS MACKINTOSH .....

BIS MACKINTOSH WILL UNDERTAKE THE STUDY IN A CONSORTIUM WITH HARWELL LABORATORY UK AND RESEARCH ASIA LTD.

THE BIS CONSORTIUM WAS SELECTED FOR THE MINI-SUPERCOMPUTER STUDY FROM ABOUT 20 WORLDWIDE BIDDERS. SUBSEQUENT TO THE SELECTION, THE STUDY SCOPE WAS EXTENDED TO COVER A REVIEW OF THE "IT" ENVIRONMENT AND "IT" MANPOWER IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AFTER THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY, DR GREENFIELD SAID THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE SUPERCOMPUTING CONSULTANCY STUDY WAS TO EXAMINE WHETHER THERE WAS A NEED FOR A SUPERCOMPUTER FACILITY IN HONG KONG AND, IF SO, TO IDENTIFY PROBABLE APPLICATION AREAS AND TO ADVISE ON THE TECHNICAL AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF USING MINI-SUPERCOMPUTERS TO MEET THE APPLICATION NEEDS.

"THE STUDY WILL ALSO ASSESS THE IMPLICATIONS AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT MEETING THE DEMAND FOR SUPERCOMPUTING SERVICES IN HONG KONG AND WILL GIVE AN ASSESSMENT OF INDUSTRY TRENDS IN SUPERCOMPUTING WITH PREDICTIONS FOR THREE YEARS AHEAD," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE REVIEW OF "IT" ENVIRONMENT AND MANPOWER, DR GREENFIELD SAID THE MAIN OBJECTIVES WERE TO EXAMINE THE APPLICATION OF "IT" AND "IT" INFRASTRUCTURE IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AND OBSTACLES TO FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE APPLICATION OF "IT", THE AVAILABILITY AND SUPPLY OF "IT" MANPOWER.

"THE REVIEW WILL ALSO RECOMMEND AS NECESSARY POSSIBLE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES THAT MIGHT ASSIST THE SHORT AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OF 'IT' IN HONG KONG.

"THE DATA COLLECTED WILL ALSO BE COMPARED WITH THE SITUATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES PARTICULARLY IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION," HE SAID.

THE STUDY WILL COMMENCE IN EARLY FEBRUARY AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY EARLY JUNE THIS YEAR.

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AMENDMENTS TO TUEN MUN OZP GAZETTED

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AMENDMENTS TO THE APPROVED TUEN MUN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE AMENDMENTS ARE MADE TO REFLECT LAND USE CHANGES AND TO INCORPORATE NEW DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS IN TUEN MUN.

/A SITE .....

A SITE WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 0.8 HECTARE TO THE SOUTH OF YEUNG SIU HANG VILLAGE IS REZONED FROM "VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT" TO "OPEN SPACE" TO PROVIDE AN EXTENSION AREA FOR THE YEUNG SIU HANG GARDEN WHICH HAS JUST BEEN OPENED TO THE PUBLIC.

THIS SITE WAS PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED FOR THE EXPANSION OF THIS INDIGENOUS VILLAGE. TO COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS OF THE ABOVE VILLAGE LAND, AN EXISTING FLAT PLATFORM TO THE WEST OF THE VILLAGE IS NOW REZONED FROM "OPEN SPACE" AND "GREEN BELT" TO "VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT".

ANOTHER AMENDMENT IS A ZONING REVISION TO INCORPORATE A PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ABOVE A LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) TERMINUS AT SAM SHING WHICH FORMS PART OF THE PHASE II LRT SYSTEM IN TUEN MUN.

A GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE WOULD BE INCLUDED ON THE GROUND LEVEL OF THE LRT TERMINUS WHILE THE COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS ARE PROPOSED ABOVE.

IN RELATION TO THIS LRT TERMINUS DEVELOPMENT, MINOR REVISIONS HAVE TO BE MADE TO THE ALIGNMENTS OF ROAD D3 AND THE PROPOSED LRT ROUTE IN THE AREA.

IN ADDITION, A PROPOSED OPEN SPACE TO THE IMMEDIATE SOUTHWEST OF THE LRT TERMINUS AND A "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" ZONE TO THE EAST OF THE TERMINUS HAVE BEEN INSERTED ON THE OUTLINE ZONING PLAN TO REFLECT THE LATEST LAND USE PROPOSALS FOR THE AREA.

THE PROPOSED OPEN SPACE WOULD ALSO SERVE AS A BUFFER BETWEEN THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ABOVE THE LRT TERMINUS AND INDUSTRIAL AND CARGO HANDLING AREAS TO THE SOUTHWEST.

A LARGE AREA NEAR SO KWUN WAT IS REZONED FROM "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP B)" TO "VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT". THIS ACCORDS WITH THE APPROVED LOCAL LAYOUT PLAN TO PROVIDE FOR A VILLAGE RESITE TO ACCOMMODATE THE NIM WAN VILLAGERS AFFECTED BY THE WEST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL PROJECT IN NORTHWESTERN TUEN MUN.

AN AREA OF ABOUT 2.1 HECTARES OF THE JUNCTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD (TAI LAM) AND TSING TAI ROAD IS REZONED FROM "GOVERNMENT/ INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" TO "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP B)". THIS AREA WAS PREVIOUSLY RESERVED FOR A GOVERNMENT USE WHICH IS NOW NOT REQUIRED.

THE PROPOSED LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL USE IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE EXISTING AND PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TO ACCORD WITH THE APPROVED LOCAL LAYOUT PLAN FOR THE AREA.

THE AMENDMENT PLAN CAN BE INSPECTED AT :

* THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, FOURTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;

/* TUEN MUN .....

* TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN; AND

* THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENTS MAY SUBMIT THEIR OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD BEFORE APRIL 2 THIS YEAR.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT PLANS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE KOWLOON MAP AND PLAN SALES SECTION AT 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD AT $10 PER UNCOLOURED COPY AND $60 PER COLOURED COPY.

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PRIVATE LOTS TO BE RESUMED FOR DEVELOPMENT

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TWENTY-ONE PRIVATE LAND LOTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE RESUMED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT.

IN YUEN LONG, PORTIONS OF TWO PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 163.5 SQUARE METRES WILL BE RESUMED FOR THE LAYING OF A 1,200-MILLIMETRE DIAMETER TWIN-CULVERT ACROSS THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 100-METRE OPEN CHANNEL AT WAI TSAI. THIS WILL BE 1.2 METRES WIDE.

IN SHA TIN, 19 PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 3,267.9 SQUARE METRES WILL BE RESUMED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACCESS SHAFT AT FA SAM HANG, AS PART OF THE TOLO HARBOUR EFFLUENT EXPORT SCHEME.

RESUMPTION NOTICES WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE LOTS WILL REVERT TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EXPIRY OF THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE POSTING OF NOTICES ON THE LOTS.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR PTU DEPOT SITE FORMATION WORK

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR SITE FORMATION FOR A NEW DEPOT IN FANLING FOR THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT.

THE DEPOT WILL COMPRISE AN OPEN AREA FOR AN ASSAULT COURSE AND SHOOTING RANGE, TWO MAIN BUILDINGS TO HOUSE TRAINING FACILITIES AND THREE SINGLE STOREY BUILDINGS FOR A SERVICE AREA.

THE SITE FORMATION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MAY THIS YEAR AND TAKE FIVE MONTHS TO COMPLETE. THE DEPOT IS SCHEDULED TO BE IN SERVICE BY SEPTEMBER 1991.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT AT 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON FEBRUARY 23.

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TENDERS FOR PIER EXTENSION WORKS CALLED

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR FINGER PIER EXTENSION WORKS UNDER PHASE I OF THE HUNG HOM BAY RECLAMATION.

A TENDER NOTICE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE RAILWAY DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR DEREK TAYLOR, SAID THE PROJECT WOULD PROVIDE AN EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING FINGER PIER AT THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION'S KOWLOON GOODS YARD.

THE CONTRACT INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 337-METRE GRAVITY TYPE SEAWALL AND MOORING FACILITIES, FORMATION OF A FREIGHT HANDLING AREA MEASURING ABOUT 7,110 SQUARE METRES, EXTENSION OF TWO EXISTING CULVERTS, CONSTRUCTION OF STORMWATER DRAINS, AND INSTALLATION OF LIGHTING, AND ASSOCIATED WORKS.

MR TAYLOR SAID THE WORK WOULD BEGIN IN APRIL AND BE COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER NEXT YEAR.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL ALSO SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION.

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TAI PO ELDERLY TREATED TO 'YAN YAT' PARTY

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ABOUT 1,600 ELDERLY PEOPLE IN TAI PO WERE TREATED TO A "YAN YAT" (EVERYONE'S BIRTHDAY) PARTY AT TWO RESTAURANTS IN THE DISTRICT THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE PARTIES WERE ARRANGED BY THE TAI PO CHINESE NEW YEAR PROGRAMME ORGANISING COMMITTEE.

THE PARTICIPANTS WERE ALL AGED 73 OR ABOVE, AND COMPRISED ABOUT 500 MEN AND 1,100 WOMEN. ALL OF THEM RECEIVED LAISEE PACKETS FROM A LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADER, MR TANG YEUK-FAN.

THE FIVE ELDEST PERSONS ATTENDING WERE PRESENTED GOLD MEDALS BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR THOMAS YIU, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD, MR HO YUNG-SANG.

VOLUNTEER WORKERS WERE PRESENT TO ASSIST THE SENIOR CITIZENS AT THE FUNCTION.

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RHKR RECRUITS JUNIOR LEADERS

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THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) IS RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS FOR ITS JUNIOR LEADERS CORPS. THE NUMBER OF NEW RECRUITS THIS YEAR IS TARGETTED AT 140.

APPLICANTS MUST BE MALE, BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14 AND 16, PHYSICALLY FIT AND OF GOOD CONDUCT.

THEY MUST BE ABLE TO SPEAK AND WRITE CHINESE AND ENGLISH, WILLING TO OBEY DISCIPLINE AND UNDERGO TRAINING, AND MUST HAVE THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

A FOUR-YEAR PROGRESSIVE TRAINING COURSE AIMING AT DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND SELF-RELIANCE AND PROMOTING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE PROVIDED TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

THE TRAINING WILL INCLUDE FOOTDRILLS, CAMPCRAFT, MAP READING, EXPEDITION, ORIENTEERING, FIRST AID, RADIO COMMUNICATION, SHOOTING, SWIMMING, FENCING, BAND, CANOEING AND LIFE-SAVING.

SOME OF THESE WILL BE LINKED WITH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME.

MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR LEADERS CORPS ARE PROVIDED WITH UNIFORM AND RATIONS.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS, 1 SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY, HONG KONG OR BY TELEPHONING 5761371. THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS FEBRUARY 10.

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