



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BILL TO MODERNISE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES LAW INTRODUCED

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THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL 1987 SOUGHT TO PROVIDE A MODERN LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO FACILITATE THE ORDERLY CONDUCT OF TRADE, SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF BOTH TRADERS AND CONSUMERS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE BILL FOR SECOND READING, MR MACLEOD SAID THE EXISTING WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 51), WHICH WAS ENACTED IN 1885 AND LAST AMENDED IN 1937, DID NOT MEET CONTEMPORARY REQUIREMENTS AND IN PARTICULAR MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE METRIC SYSTEM, ALSO, ITS ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS WERE INAPPROPRIATE AND INEFFECTIVE, HE ADDED.

"THE BILL WILL ENHANCE HONG KONG'S REPUTATION OVERSEAS AS A TRADING COMMUNITY THAT USES MODERN, INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS."

MR MACLEOD SAID A NUMBER OF BROAD AREAS WERE COVERED BY THE BILL.

"FIRST, IT DEFINES THE UNITS OF MEASUREMENT, AND STIPULATES THE UNITS, AND THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WHICH ARE LAWFUL FOR USE FOR TRADE IN HONG KONG.

"SECONDLY, IT PROVIDES FOR OFFENCES AND AN ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY TO ENFORCE THE LEGISLATION.

"LASTLY, THE BILL GIVES REGULATION-MAKING POWERS GOVERNING TRADE TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THE USE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES."

HE SAID WHILE THE BILL HAD BEEN DRAFTED HAVING REGARD TO THE VIEWS RECEIVED FROM A WIDE RANGE OF RELEVANT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, ITS ENACTMENT WAS LIKELY TO REQUIRE A DEGREE OF ADJUSTMENT ON THE PART OF SOME SECTORS OF THE TRADING COMMUNITY.

"TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE INVOLVED HAS ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY TO ADAPT TO THE NEW REQUIREMENTS IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BRING THE LEGISLATION INTO EFFECT UNTIL AT LEAST 12 MONTHS AFTER ENACTMENT. DURING THIS PERIOD EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO EDUCATE AND INFORM TRADERS OF THE NEW REQUIREMENTS."

MR MACLEOD ALSO NOTED THAT THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL 1987 WAS SIGNIFICANT AS IT WAS THE FIRST BILL DRAFTED AND GAZETTED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BILINGUAL LAWS PROJECT.

"HOWEVER, ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT OF THE BILL WOULD BE DEBATED IN THIS COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSES OF ENACTMENT," HE ADDED.

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PUBLIC HEALTH BILL KEEPS DETERRENT EFFECT

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1987 IS TO PRESERVE THE DETERRENT EFFECT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS SAID, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS UPDATED THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES RELATING TO VARIOUS OFFENCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE.

HE SAID THE BILL SOUGHT FIRST TO AMEND SECTION 143 (A) OF THE ORDINANCE TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES THAT MIGHT BE IMPOSED BY REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE ORDINANCE FROM \$10,000 TO \$25,000 FOR FINES AND FROM \$250 TO \$600 FOR DAILY PENALTY.

IT ALSO AMENDED THE NINTH SCHEDULE OF THE ORDINANCE TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND FOOD HYGIENE UNDER THE ORDINANCE, AND ALSO TO DELETE SECTION 79 (3) FROM THE SCHEDULE.

MOREOVER, THE BILL DELETED SECTION 15 (1C) OF THE ORDINANCE TO BRING THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE PUBLIC CLEANSING AND PREVENTION OF NUISANCES (URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL) BY-LAWS WITHIN THE AMBIT OF SECTION 143 (A).

MR CHAMBERS EXPLAINED THAT MOST OF THESE PENALTIES HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE 1978.

"INFLATION SINCE 1978, INCREASES IN ENFORCEMENT STAFF COSTS DURING THE SAME PERIOD AND THE NATURE AND SERIOUSNESS OF EACH OFFENCE AND THE DETERRENT REQUIRED ARE THE FACTORS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN WORKING OUT THE PROPOSED INCREASES IN THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES.

"BOTH THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCIL HAVE ENDORSED THESE PROPOSALS. AFTER THE BILL HAS BEEN ENACTED, THE TWO COUNCILS WILL SIMILARLY INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES PRESCRIBED UNDER THEIR BY-LAWS," HE ADDED.

THE DEBATE ON THIS MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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DISCRETION SCHEME NOT CAUSE OF JUVENILE CRIME

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THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS AND ITS POSSIBLE ORIGINS WOULD NOT NEGATE THE PRESUMPTION ON WHICH THE POLICE SUPERINTENDENT DISCRETION SCHEME IS BASED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE SCHEME IS BASED ON A PRESUMPTION THAT YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 17 SHOULD NOT BE PROSECUTED IN THE COURTS UNLESS THERE ARE GOOD GROUNDS FOR DOING SO," HE SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR JEAFFERSON, SAID MOST OF THE INCREASE WAS IN RESPECT OF THEFT FROM SHOPS.

"WE SUSPECT THAT THIS INCREASE IS MORE A RESULT OF BETTER SECURITY MEASURES AND A GREATER WILLINGNESS TO REPORT SUCH THEFTS RATHER THAN A WEAKNESS ARISING FROM THE SUPERINTENDENTS' DISCRETION SCHEME," HE STRESSED.

HE ALSO SAID THE OBJECT OF THE SCHEME WAS TO GIVE YOUNG OFFENDERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO OVERCOME THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY IMPULSIVE AND MINOR TRANSGRESSIONS WITHOUT HAVING TO GO THROUGH THE REST OF THEIR LIVES WITH THE STIGMA OF CRIMINAL RECORDS.

"RATHER THAN BEING PROSECUTED, THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN A SEVERE WARNING IN THE PRESENCE OF THEIR PARENTS."

MR JEAFFERSON OUTLINED THE FACTORS THAT POLICE OFFICERS MUST TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION IN DETERMINING WHETHER THERE WERE GOOD GROUNDS FOR PROSECUTION: THE PUBLIC INTERESTS AND THE INTEREST OF THE OFFENDER; THE TYPE OF OFFENCE, HOW PREVALENT IT WAS IN THAT PARTICULAR DISTRICTS AND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ACTUAL OFFENCE COMMITTED; THE ATTITUDE OF THE COMPLAINANT AND OF THE PARENTS OR GUARDIAN.

"THEY MUST HAVE EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT FOR A PROSECUTION AND THE OFFENDER MUST ADMIT THE OFFENCE IF HE IS GOING TO BE CAUTIONED," HE ADDED.

MR JEAFFERSON POINTED OUT THE SCHEME HAD BEEN REVIEWED THREE TIMES SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1963: IN 1966, IN 1978 AND IN 1985-86 BY THE WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH, A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE.

"THE SCHEME WILL BE REVIEWED AGAIN IN JULY 1987 AND FROM TIME TO TIME THEREAFTER,"

"THE LAST REVIEW LED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ISSUE NEW AND EXPANDED GUIDELINES IN JANUARY 1987," SAID MR JEAFFERSON.

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CONSULAR ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION FOR BRITISH PASSPORT HOLDERS
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HONG KONG RESIDENTS HOLDING BRITISH PASSPORTS ARE ENTITLED TO THE SAME ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION AS BRITISH CITIZENS WHEN BEING INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL OR JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS WHILE TRAVELLING ABROAD, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE YU-TAI, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE FORMS OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE INCLUDE:

* NOTIFICATION OF ARREST

IN COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD SIGNED AND RATIFIED A CONSULAR CONVENTION, THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES WERE OBLIGED IF REQUESTED BY THE DETAINEE TO INFORM BRITISH CONSULAR OFFICERS OF THE ARREST OR DETENTION OF BRITISH NATIONALS WHICH INCLUDED HONG KONG BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS.

THE CONSULAR OFFICERS WOULD THEN INFORM THE HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IN RESPECT OF THOSE RESIDENT IN HONG KONG. THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WOULD THEN NOTIFY THE NEXT-OF-KIN IF THE PERSON ARRESTED SO REQUESTED;

* ADVICE ON LOCAL PROCEEDINGS AND LEGAL AID

THE CONSULAR OFFICERS WOULD GIVE ADVICE TO BDTCS ARRESTED ON THE LOCAL PROCEEDINGS, THEIR RIGHTS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF LEGAL AID.

THEY WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE PERSONS CONCERNED TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ANY FREE LEGAL AID THAT WAS AVAILABLE, AND THAT THEY WERE CHARGED AND BROUGHT TO TRIAL WITHOUT UNNECESSARY DELAY, OR ELSE WERE RELEASED;

* VISIT BY BRITISH CONSULAR OFFICER

CONSULAR OFFICERS WOULD REGULARLY VISIT BRITISH NATIONALS IMPRISONED OVERSEAS. THEY WOULD TRY TO ENSURE THAT THE CONDITIONS OF DETENTION, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER SENTENCE, WERE IN CONFORMITY WITH UNITED NATIONS STANDARD MINIMUM RULES FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS;

* REPATRIATION

WHERE REPATRIATION WAS REQUIRED AND AUTHORISED THE CONSULAR OFFICERS WOULD MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE AS REGARDS DOCUMENTATION AND FUNDING.

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HOWEVER, FOR CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY HOLDERS, SINCE THEY WERE NOT BRITISH NATIONALS, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THEY WERE NOT ENTITLED TO BRITISH CONSULAR PROTECTION.

BUT GIVEN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, BRITISH CONSULAR POSTS HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO AS MUCH AS THEY COULD FOR HONG KONG C OF I HOLDERS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE ABROAD, SUCH AS OFFERING CERTAIN OTHER CONSULAR SERVICES OF ASSISTING WITH REPATRIATION AND RENEWAL OF C OF IS, HE ADDED.

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MANUFACTURERS NOT DISCOURAGED BY LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME

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THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME HAS NEITHER DISCOURAGED SMALL MANUFACTURERS FROM CONTINUING PRODUCTION IN HONG KONG NOR HAS INDUCED THEM TO SET UP PRODUCTION OUTSIDE OF HONG KONG, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON MICHELANGELO PAGLIARI, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR PAGLIARI SAID ACCORDING TO FIGURES PRODUCED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, THE NUMBER OF SMALL MANUFACTURERS IN HONG KONG, THAT WAS THOSE EMPLOYING LESS THAN 100 PERSONS, HAD ACTUALLY RISEN BY ONE PER CENT SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN SUCH COMPANIES HAD ALSO RISEN BY THREE PER CENT.

FURTHERMORE, THIS ITEM WAS NOT IDENTIFIED AS A BUSINESS PROBLEM IN THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY REPORT PREPARED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, HE ADDED.

"THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY INFORMS ME THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS HAVE INDEED SET UP PRODUCTION FACILITIES ACROSS THE BORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LOWER LAND AND LABOUR COSTS," HE SAID.

HE SAID, HOWEVER, THE COST TO EMPLOYERS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE SCHEME'S OPERATION HAD BEEN ESTIMATED AT LESS THAN 0.3 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL PAYROLL OF ALL EMPLOYERS, AND WAS NOT EVEN MARGINAL WHEN COMPARED WITH LOWER LAND AND LABOUR COSTS OVER THE BORDER.

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NEW ROAD TO LINK NW NEW TERRITORIES AND KOWLOON

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IT IS NOT ENVISAGED THAT THE EARLY COMMENCEMENT OF ROUTE X WILL BRING ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ROUTE X IS THE PROPOSED ROAD LINK BETWEEN THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES AND URBAN KOWLOON.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RICHARD LAI, MR LEUNG SAID ROUTE X WOULD HOWEVER PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ACCESS TO THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES, AND THUS COULD BE EXPECTED TO BENEFIT THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY THERE.

HE SAID IT WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED AS AN ADDITIONAL ROUTE FOR CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC.

"THE NEED FOR THE ROUTE X ROAD LINK WAS ESTABLISHED BY SEVERAL SUB-REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES CONDUCTED BETWEEN 1981 AND 1985," MR LEUNG SAID.

HE SAID THE TIMING AND PRIORITY RELATIVE TO OTHER TRANSPORT PROJECTS FOR CONSTRUCTING ROUTE X DEPENDED MAINLY ON THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES AND THE BUILD-UP OF CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC.

"THIS WILL BE ASSESSED IN THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY (CTS-2) NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TERRITORY. RESULTS OF THE STUDY SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN MAY 1988," HE ADDED.

MR LEUNG SAID IN VIEW OF THE NEED AND IMPORTANCE TO SELECT AND PROTECT THE PREFERRED ROUTE TO FACILITATE DETAILED PLANNING, CONSULTANTS WOULD SHORTLY BE ENGAGED TO CARRY OUT A PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDY TO IDENTIFY THE BEST ALIGNMENT FOR THIS ROAD AND TO ESTIMATE ITS ORDER OF COST.

HE SAID THE STUDY WOULD COMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AND TAKE SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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SCHOOL LEAVERS WARNED AGAINST UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS

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COMPREHENSIVE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON CAREER AND FURTHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IS PROVIDED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS, AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHELANGELO PAGLIARI, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI, HE SAID THIS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE INCLUDED WARNINGS TO YOUNG PEOPLE TO BEWARE OF EXPLOITATION BY UNSCRUPULOUS INDIVIDUALS.

"EVERY YEAR AT ABOUT THIS TIME THERE IS AN EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT SCHOOL LEAVERS, INVOLVING RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMMES, PRESS RELEASES, CIRCULARS TO SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, AND PAMPHLETS ISSUED TO F3, F5, AND F6 LEAVERS."

"THIS PUBLICITY IS REINFORCED BY THE CAREERS GUIDANCE TEACHERS IN THE SCHOOLS AND BY THE STAFF OF THE FIVE CAREERS ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE 15 LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICES OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT." MR PAGLIARI SAID.

HE ADDED THAT LEGAL PROTECTION AGAINST UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES WAS GIVEN BY THE REQUIREMENT FOR SUCH AGENCIES TO BE LICENSED, WITH FEES AND COMMISSIONS CONTROLLED BY THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATIONS.

IF ANY SCHOOL LEAVER WAS IN ANY DOUBT AS TO THE STATUS OF ANY LOCAL OR OVERSEAS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE IN WHICH HE PROPOSED TO CONTINUE HIS STUDIES, OR IF HE WAS IN ANY WAY DOUBTFUL OF THE BONA FIDES OF AN OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT, HE COULD CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT FOR ADVICE, MR PAGLIARI SAID.

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HIGH STANDARDS IN MONITORING YOUTH AND CHILDREN PROGRAMMES

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING ADOPTS A VERY HIGH STANDARD IN MONITORING TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTS WHICH ARE INTENDED FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PAULINE NG CONCERNING PROVOCATIVE OR VULGAR LYRICS OF SONGS BROADCAST ON TELEVISION OR RADIO, MR LIAO SAID THE BROADCASTING OF INDECENT LYRICS CONSTITUTED AN OFFENCE UNDER THE OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE IN THE SAME WAY AS THE PUBLICATION OF AN INDECENT ARTICLE.

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"MOREOVER, UNDER THE CODES OF PRACTICE ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER, TELEVISION AND RADIO LICENCES ARE PROHIBITED FROM BROADCASTING ANY MATTER, INCLUDING LYRICS, WHICH IS CONSIDERED OBSCENE, VULGAR, INDECENT OR PROFANE," MR LIAO SAID.

"THE COMMISSIONER REGULARLY MONITORS THE LYRICS OF SONGS BROADCAST ON TELEVISION AND RADIO AND TAKES ACTION TO STOP THE BROADCAST OF ANY LYRICS WHICH ARE IN BREACH OF THE CODES OF PRACTICE.

"IN DOING SO, THE COMMISSIONER ADOPTS A HIGHER STANDARD IN RESPECT OF PROGRAMMES AND MATTERS WHICH ARE INTENDED FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS," HE ADDED.

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ASSESSMENT OF PRIVATE ELDERLY HOMES IN OCTOBER * * * * *

A FULL ASSESSMENT ON THE EXTENT OF COMPLIANCE OF A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PRIVATE ELDERLY HOMES WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LIU LIT-FOR, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK THE ADVICE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE COMPLIANCE OF THIS CODE.

THE CODE OF PRACTICE WAS INTRODUCED LAST OCTOBER TO PROVIDE A GUIDE FOR OPERATORS OF PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY.

"SINCE THEN STAFF OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN VISITING THESE HOMES TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CODE," HE SAID.

"WHILE SOME OF THE HOMES HAVE ALREADY TAKEN POSITIVE ACTION TO INTRODUCE IMPROVEMENTS SUCH AS THE INSTALLATION OF FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT, OTHERS HAVE DIFFICULTY IN COMPLYING WITH THE PER CAPITA SPACE STANDARDS AND IN RECRUITING NURSING STAFF WITH THE RECOMMENDED QUALIFICATIONS," HE ADDED.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LATER CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN AND IN PARTICULAR WHETHER LEGISLATION SHOULD BE PROPOSED IN THE LIGHT OF THE ASSESSMENT.

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WAYS TO CLAIM PAY OUTLINED

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THERE ARE THREE POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CAN ASSIST EMPLOYEES WHOSE EMPLOYERS FAIL TO MAKE PAYMENTS AWARDED TO THEM BY THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL WITHIN A SET PERIOD OF TIME, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON MICHELANGELO PAGLIARI, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI, MR PAGLIARI SAID FIRSTLY, THE EMPLOYEE COULD APPROACH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WITH THE CERTIFICATE OF AWARD WHICH HAD BEEN ISSUED BY THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL.

HE SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WOULD THEN ISSUE A WARNING LETTER TO THE EMPLOYER REMINDING HIM THAT THE NON PAYMENT OF WAGES AND OTHER RELATED BENEFITS WAS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

"IF THE EMPLOYER IGNORES THIS WARNING, PROSECUTION WILL BE INSTITUTED AGAINST HIM IN A MAGISTRATE'S COURT," MR PAGLIARI SAID.

"EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT IN MOST CASES OF THIS KIND EMPLOYERS WILL PAY THE SUM AWARDED BY THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL."

HE SAID HOWEVER, THAT A MAGISTRATE'S COURT DID NOT HAVE THE POWER TO ENFORCE AN AWARD BUT ONLY TO IMPOSE AN APPROPRIATE PENALTY.

"SECONDLY, IF THE EMPLOYER CONTINUES TO FAIL TO PAY AN AWARD THE EMPLOYEE MAY, IF HE QUALIFIES, OBTAIN THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT TO HELP HIM TO ENFORCE THE AWARD THROUGH A DISTRICT COURT," HE SAID.

THIRDLY, HE SAID IF THE NON PAYMENT WAS BECAUSE OF THE INSOLVENCY OF THE EMPLOYER, THE EMPLOYEE COULD APPROACH THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND FOR THE PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING WAGES.

MR PAGLIARI SAID HE INTENDED TO INTRODUCE A BILL TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THE FUND TO COVER WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE AT THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

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APRIL EXTERNAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN APRIL THIS YEAR STOOD AT \$59,282 MILLION AND REPRESENTED A 37 PER CENT GROWTH IN VALUE TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO TRADE VALUE STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

COMPARED WITH APRIL 1986, DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS BY 28 PER CENT TO \$14,539 MILLION IN APRIL 1987 WHILE RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 49 PER CENT TO \$14,255 MILLION, BRINGING TOTAL EXPORTS IN APRIL 1987 TO \$28,794 MILLION, WHICH WAS 38 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN APRIL 1986.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, IMPORTS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS BY 36 PER CENT TO \$30,489 MILLION IN APRIL 1987.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS BETWEEN APRIL 1986 AND APRIL 1987. SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO JAPAN (+78 PER CENT), THE NETHERLANDS (+69 PER CENT), CHINA (+69 PER CENT), FRANCE (+64 PER CENT) AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+44 PER CENT).

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+74 PER CENT), ITALY (+60 PER CENT), CHINA (+50 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (+43 PER CENT) AND TAIWAN (+41 PER CENT). RE-EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE U.S.A., THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND CHINA INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN VALUE TERMS BY 140 PER CENT, 123 PER CENT, 77 PER CENT, 60 PER CENT AND 51 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JANUARY TO APRIL 1987, AT \$212,661 MILLION, INCREASED BY 40 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME FOUR MONTHS IN 1986.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 31 PER CENT TO \$53,067 MILLION WHILE RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 51 PER CENT TO \$50,740 MILLION. THUS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 40 PER CENT TO \$103,806 MILLION. IMPORTS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS BY 39 PER CENT TO \$108,854 MILLION.

COMPARING JANUARY TO APRIL 1987 WITH THE SAME FOUR MONTHS IN 1986, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS. THE MARKETS WITH THE FASTEST GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED CHINA (+74 PER CENT), JAPAN (+71 PER CENT), THE NETHERLANDS (+70 PER CENT), THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+50 PER CENT) AND FRANCE (+47 PER CENT).

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S LARGEST MARKET, THE U.S.A., GREW BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS.

/IMPORTS IN

IMPORTS IN JANUARY TO APRIL 1987 FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN IMPORTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+80 PER CENT), ITALY (+54 PER CENT), TAIWAN (+52 PER CENT), CHINA (+51 PER CENT) AND THE U.S.A. (+30 PER CENT).

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE U.S.A., THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND TAIWAN INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN VALUE TERMS BY 100 PER CENT, 81 PER CENT, 79 PER CENT, 64 PER CENT AND 55 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

ALL TRADE STATISTICS PRESENTED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON. A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN APRIL 1987 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY JULY 1987.

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S TEN MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1987 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986, INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE RECORDED IN ALL MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS, THE MORE NOTABLE ONES BEING CLOTHING (BY \$2,934 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$2,066 MILLION OR 33 PER CENT); TEXTILES (BY \$1,914 MILLION OR 69 PER CENT); AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,690 MILLION OR 64 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$33 MILLION OR 48 PER CENT); AS WELL AS VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY \$24 MILLION OR 32 PER CENT).

TABLE 2 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG'S TEN MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1987 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986, INCREASES IN IMPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$5,008 MILLION OR 42 PER CENT); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$3,736 MILLION OR 61 PER CENT); CLOTHING (BY \$2,774 MILLION OR 55 PER CENT); AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$2,499 MILLION OR 72 PER CENT).

/HOWEVER, DECREASES

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (BY \$480 MILLION OR 17 PER CENT); AS WELL AS COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES, AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF (BY \$71 MILLION OR 17 PER CENT).

TABLE 4 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1987 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986, INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$2,878 MILLION OR 89 PER CENT); TEXTILES (BY \$2,686 MILLION OR 49 PER CENT); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$1,919 MILLION OR 85 PER CENT); AS WELL AS ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,572 MILLION OR 59 PER CENT). HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$335 MILLION OR 77 PER CENT); AS WELL AS COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES, AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF (BY \$130 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT).

TABLE 6 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

DETAILED STATISTICS ON TRADE VALUE BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE AVAILABLE IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE APRIL 1987 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS SUMMARY" WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND JUNE 20, 1987, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT \$5.50 PER COPY.

A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE", WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN APRIL 1987 WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY JULY 1987 AT \$15 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT BASKERVILLE HOUSE, HONG KONG ON 5-214375 AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234915.

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN-APR 1987 (HKD MN.)	JAN-APR 87 OVER JAN-APR 86 (%)	APRIL 1987 (HKD MN.)	APR 87 OVER APR 86 (%)
U.S.A.	19,281	12	5,274	10
CHINA	7,858	74	2,306	69
F.R. OF GERMANY	4,243	50	1,020	44
U.K.	3,250	25	897	22
JAPAN	2,539	71	746	78
CANADA	1,513	9	369	8
NETHERLANDS	1,193	70	294	69
AUSTRALIA	1,044	7	261	8
SINGAPORE	1,040	37	314	40
FRANCE	1,008	47	313	64

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-APR 1987 (HKD MN.)	JAN-APR 87 OVER JAN-APR 86 (%)	APRIL 1987 (HKD MN.)	APR 87 OVER APR 86 (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	16,670	21	4,259	21
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	8,257	33	2,387	28

/TEXTILE YARN,

TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	4,687	69	1,395	68
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	4,322	64	1,129	50
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	4,183	35	1,168	28
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4,138	17	1,169	12

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM TEN MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	JAN-APR 1987 (HKD MN.)	JAN-APR 87 OVER JAN-APR 86 (%)	APRIL 1987 (HKD MN.)	APR 87 OVER APR 86 (%)
CHINA	32,469	51	9,297	50
JAPAN	21,067	27	6,006	21
TAIWAN	9,743	52	2,727	41
U.S.A.	9,314	30	2,435	31
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	5,008	80	1,514	74
SINGAPORE	4,235	19	1,154	43

U.K. 3,517

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U.K.	3,517	26	943	13
F.R. OF GERMANY	2,960	28	810	24
SWITZERLAND	1,955	28	565	34
ITALY	1,886	54	547	60

TABLE 4: IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-APR 1987 (HKD MN.)	JAN-APR 87 OVER JAN-APR 86 (%)	APRIL 1987 (HKD MN.)	APR 87 OVER APR 86 (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	16,845	42	5,015	35
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	9,868	61	2,768	46
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,849	55	2,276	54
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	5,963	72	1,682	65
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	5,945	25	1,620	16

/MISCELLANEOUS

MISCELLANEOUS
MANUFACTURED
ARTICLES (MAINLY
BABY CARRIAGES,
TOYS, GAMES AND
SPORTING GOODS)

5,676 54 1,636 45

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN-APR 1987 (HKD MN.)	JAN-APR 87 OVER JAN-APR 86 (%)	APRIL 1987 (HKD MN.)	APR 87 OVER APR 86 (%)
CHINA	16,512	49	4,703	51
U.S.A.	9,801	79	2,733	77
TAIWAN	2,805	55	803	51
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	2,686	64	764	60
JAPAN	2,450	32	703	47
SINGAPORE	1,923	20	536	35
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,278	100	374	123
MACAU	1,022	26	280	27
U.K.	996	81	317	140
INDONESIA	807	21	222	11

/TABLE 6:

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-APR 1987 (HKD MN.)	JAN-APR 87 OVER JAN-APR 86 (%)	APRIL 1987 (HKD MN.)	APR 87 OVER APR 86 (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	8,163	49	2,446	53
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,124	89	1,638	91
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	4,248	59	1,219	50
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	4,169	85	1,221	79
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2,935	89	900	125
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,412	51	658	47

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SUSPENSION OF IDENTITY CARD SERVICES

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IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND NEW IDENTITY CARDS RE-ISSUE SCHEME ON JULY 1, 1987, THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICES WILL SUSPEND SOME OF THE SERVICES FROM JUNE 22 TO JUNE 30, BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE.

ALL REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICES WILL, HOWEVER, REMAIN OPEN DURING THIS PERIOD TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF LOSS AND TO ISSUE IDENTITY CARDS DUE FOR COLLECTION. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAVE LOST THEIR IDENTITY CARDS MAY STILL APPROACH THESE OFFICES.

FULL SERVICES WILL RESUME ON JULY 1, 1987.

FOR ENQUIRIES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY CONTACT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:-

HONG KONG -----	TEL. NO. -----
HONG KONG BRANCH SHOPS G6-G11, GROUND FLOOR PROVIDENT CENTRE 21-53 WHARF ROAD NORTH POINT	5-642374
ABERDEEN OFFICE ABERDEEN CENTRE, BLOCK K-N SHOP 4B, GROUND FLOOR 12-16 NAM NING STREET ABERDEEN	5-548100
QUEENSWAY BRANCH NEW RODNEY BLOCK 2ND FLOOR 99 QUEENSWAY	5-286753
KOWLOON -----	TEL. NO. -----
KOWLOON BRANCH EMPIRE CENTRE 2ND FLOOR 68 MODY ROAD TSIM SHA TSUI	3-680479
KOWLOON CITY OFFICE HANG CHIEN COURT GROUND FLOOR WYLER GARDEN 7-9 WAI KING STREET	3-656532
KWUN TONG OFFICE AMOY PLAZA ROOM 54-60, 2ND FLOOR 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD	3-7559545

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NEW TERRITORIES

TSUEN WAN BRANCH 0-4984242
LEVEL 4, TSUEN WAN FERRY PIER
TSUEN WAN WATERFRONT
TSUEN WAN

TAI PO OFFICE 0-6577111
TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES EXT. 292
3RD FLOOR
TING KOK ROAD

YUEN LONG OFFICE 0-754114
3RD FLOOR
YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES
2 KIU LOK SQUARE

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN FORT STREET TO BE DEMOLISHED
* * * * *

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS TO BE MADE IN RESPECT OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON A MULTI-STOREY RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 21 - 23, FORT STREET, NORTH POINT IN THE DISTRICT COURT, HONG KONG, ON JULY 15.

THE STRUCTURES ARE ON THE FLAT ROOFS ADJACENT TO FLATS A AND B ON THE SECOND FLOOR AND PROJECTING FROM THE EXTERNAL WALLS OF FLAT B ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE BUILDING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID IT WAS THE AUTHORITY'S OPINION THAT THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES SHOULD BE CLOSED SO THAT THEY COULD BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

HE SAID NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS WERE POSTED ON THE STRUCTURES TODAY.

ORDERS TO DEMOLISH THE STRUCTURES UNDER A SECTION OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE WERE ISSUED IN OCTOBER 1984, AND IN MAY AND JULY LAST YEAR, BUT NONE HAD BEEN COMPLIED WITH.

DEMOLITION WORK WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDERS WERE OBTAINED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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MARINE DEPARTMENT OFFICES REMAIN OPEN DURING HOLIDAYS

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT ITS PORT COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE AND MACAU FERRY TERMINAL (CENTRAL) WILL REMAIN OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY ON JUNE 13 AND 15 (SATURDAY AND MONDAY) WHICH HAVE BEEN DECLARED GENERAL HOLIDAYS.

THE DEPARTMENT'S MACAU FERRY TERMINAL (SHAM SHUI PO) AND CHINA FERRY TERMINAL (CENTRAL) WILL ALSO MAINTAIN THEIR NORMAL OPENING HOURS FROM 7.30 AM TO 9.30 PM AND FROM 7 AM TO 8 PM RESPECTIVELY ON THESE HOLIDAYS.

ALSO OPEN FOR NORMAL OPERATIONS FROM 7 AM TO 9 PM DAILY DURING THE HOLIDAYS ARE THE PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS AT WAN CHAI, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG, TSUEN WAN, WESTERN DISTRICT, RAMBLER CHANNEL, CHAI WAN AND SHAM SHUI PO, AND THE PUBLIC WATERFRONTS AT YAU MA TEI, KOWLOON BAY AND TUEN MUN.

THE VICTORIA MARINE OFFICE AND THE ENTRY AND CLEARANCE OFFICE, BOTH LOCATED ON THE 3RD FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, WILL BE OPEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENTRY AND OUTWARD CLEARANCE ONLY BETWEEN 9 AM AND 11 AM ON JUNE 14 (SUNDAY).

ALL OTHER SECTIONS OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE HOLIDAYS.

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THREE NT SITES TO BE LET BY TENDER

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THREE NEW TERRITORIES LOTS ARE TO BE LET ON SHORT TERM TENANCIES BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

ONE SITE, MEASURING ABOUT 4,175 SQUARE METRES, IS SITUATED AT KAU TO, SHA TIN NEW TOWN, AND IS FOR A PLANT NURSERY, COMMERCIAL GARDEN, INCLUDING GROWING, STORAGE AND SALE OF PLANTS, FLOWERS AND OTHER ANCILLARY GARDEN PRODUCTS.

THE TENANCY IS ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE OTHER TWO SITES AT HOI HING ROAD, TSUEN WAN, AND HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG, MEASURE 3,700 SQUARE METRES AND 16,800 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

BOTH ARE INTENDED FOR USE AS FEE PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARKS FOR PARKING CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCIES ARE ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS ON THE SITES IS NOON ON JUNE 26.

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/21

DB SEEKS VIEWS ON GREEN PAPER

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THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO CONSIDER WAYS TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS ON THE GREEN PAPER OF THE 1987 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO SEEK TO ADOPT A PROPER AND SYSTEMATIC METHOD TO REFLECT VIEWS TO THE SURVEY OFFICE.

A WORKING GROUP WILL BE FORMED TO UNDERTAKE THE TASK. TEMPORARY OFFICES ARE BEING PROPOSED AT EACH OF THE SIX CONSTITUENCIES TO FACILITATE LOCAL RESIDENTS IN AIRING THEIR VIEWS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE INFORMED OF SURVEY FINDINGS ON THE PROVISION OF SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE SURVEY, CONDUCTED BY A WORKING GROUP UNDER THE MONG KOK DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, WAS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

MEMBERS' VIEWS WILL BE SOUGHT ON THE PRIORITY ACCORDED TO CAPITAL WORK PROJECTS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

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YUEN LONG DB TO CONSIDER NULLAH PLANS

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE NULLAHS IN THE DISTRICT.

BINNIE & PARTNERS (HK), WHICH WAS COMMISSIONED TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY ON WAYS TO REDUCE THE FOUL SMELL AND VISUAL IMPACTS OF THE NULLAHS HAD PROPOSED A SCHEME WHICH INVOLVED THE BUILDING OF AN INFLATABLE DAM DOWNSTREAM OF YUEN LONG, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUMPING STATION AND LOW FLOW CHANNELS IN THE NULLAHS.

/THE BOARD

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THE BOARD WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY WHICH SUGGESTS THE INTRODUCTION OF A HOME PURCHASE LOAN SCHEME FOR FAMILIES SEEKING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN BUYING HOMES.

MEMBERS' VIEWS WILL BE CONSULTED ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE YUEN LONG HIGHWAY WHICH WILL FORM THE LAST SECTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR TRUNK ROAD. IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE YUEN LONG-TUEN MUN EASTERN CORRIDOR SECTION OF THE ROAD WILL BE DESIGNED TO SUIT FAST TRAVEL WITH THE SPEED LIMIT SET AT 100 KILOMETRES PER HOUR.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE WATER TREATMENT AND TRANSFER FACILITIES AT AU TAU, THE SECOND INTERIM REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, AND THE REPORT ON THE SEVENTH YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING AT 9:30 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, 13/F, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

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TURNING MOVEMENT IN MONG KOK BANNED

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TURNING MOVEMENT FROM TUNG CHAU STREET NORTHWEST BOUND ON TO SYCAMORE STREET OR PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST WILL BE BANNED PERMANENTLY TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW THERE FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MOTORISTS TRAVELLING ON TONG MEI ROAD NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR SYCAMORE STREET ARE ADVISED TO OPERATE VIA PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST.

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