



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
BRITISH NATIONALITY SCHEME FINAL PHASE APPLICATION CLOSES ON MARCH 31	1
30% INCREASE IN TRANSPORT EXPENDITURE	2
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION	3
PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JANUARY 1994	4
TAXI DRIVER TO DISPLAY IDENTITY PLATE FROM APRIL	6
UPGC TO PUBLISH INTERIM REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION	6
CENTRAL ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY ONE PLACES	8
VIEWS SOUGHT ON HIGHER EDUCATION INTERIM REPORT	9
FS TO PRESENT BUDGET ON WEDNESDAY	10
TV VIEWING GROUPS ATTEND RECEPTION	11
SEVEN BODIES TO RAISE FUNDS IN MARCH	11
APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR IN-SERVICE COURSES	13
CLOSURE OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES	13
WATER STORAGE FIGURE	14
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	14

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1994

- 1 -

BRITISH NATIONALITY SCHEME FINAL PHASE
APPLICATION CLOSES ON MARCH 31

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (MONDAY) REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT THE APPLICATION PERIOD FOR THE FINAL PHASE OF THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME WILL CLOSE ON MARCH 31 THIS YEAR.

UNDER THE FINAL PHASE OF THE SCHEME, 13,160 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS IN HONG KONG WILL BE ABLE TO REGISTER AS BRITISH CITIZENS.

A TOTAL OF 36,840 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED IN THE FIRST PHASE WHICH ENDED ON JANUARY 1, 1994.

APPLICATION FORMS TOGETHER WITH A SET OF GUIDANCE NOTES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, IMMIGRATION OFFICES, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES OF DISTRICT OFFICES AND POST OFFICES.

NINE NEW REFERENCE MANUALS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED TO EXPLAIN THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND RULES FOR AWARDED POINTS FOR EACH OF THE POINT-SCORING ATTRIBUTES AND GIVE THE COMPUTER CODES FOR OCCUPATIONS, QUALIFICATIONS AND AWARDS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED INTENDING APPLICANTS TO CONSULT THE MANUALS BEFORE COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ACCURATE AND FULL INFORMATION.

"APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE FORM," HE SAID.

THE MANUALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE AT ALL PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES OF DISTRICT OFFICES, IMMIGRATION OFFICES, POST OFFICES AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

THEY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$24 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN WAN CHAI; PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES OF DISTRICT OFFICES; SELECTED POST OFFICES AND CENTREPOINT MINISTORES.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED BY PERSONAL DELIVERY OR REGISTERED MAIL TO THE BRITISH NATIONALITY DIVISION OF IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AT IMMIGRATION TOWER, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

APPLICANTS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATION AS EARLY AS PRACTICABLE TO AVOID ANY LAST-MINUTE RUSH OR MISSING THE DEADLINE INADVERTENTLY. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

AN APPLICATION FEE OF \$300 IN CHEQUE OR CASHIER'S ORDER SHOULD BE ENCLOSED. THE FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE, WHETHER AN APPLICATION SUCCEEDS OR NOT.

REGISTRATION FEE FOR EACH SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT IS \$2,700.

ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE MADE ON THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HOTLINE 802 9900.

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30% INCREASE IN TRANSPORT EXPENDITURE

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND ABOUT \$9 BILLION ON ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN 1994/95, REPRESENTING A 30 PER CENT INCREASE OVER 1993/94.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY) TO ELABORATE ON TRANSPORT EXPENDITURE PUBLISHED IN THE 1994/95 DRAFT ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE, MR BARMA SAID THE INCREASE REFLECTED GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO INVESTING IN OUR ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE.

MR BARMA SAID MAJOR TRANSPORT PROJECTS COVERED IN THE 1994/95 ESTIMATE INCLUDED THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY, ROUTE 3 AND WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY.

THESE PROJECTS ARE ESSENTIAL NOT ONLY TO THE NEW AIRPORT BUT ALSO TO NEW DEVELOPMENTS ALONG ITS ALIGNMENT FROM THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION TO THE NEW TOWN OF TUNG CHUNG.

MR BARMA EMPHASISED THAT THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY AND THE ROUTE 3 - TSING YI SECTION, AS WELL AS THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, WERE ALREADY THE TOP TRANSPORT PRIORITIES GIVEN THE CRUCIAL NEED TO PLAN FOR A NEW NORTH TO SOUTH TRANSPORT ARTERY.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WOULD ALSO BE A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE ON ROAD PROJECTS OF NON-AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP).

MAJOR NON-ACP ROAD PROJECTS DUE TO BEGIN IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR INCLUDE THE WIDENING OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND CHING CHEUNG ROAD FROM A DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY TO DUAL THREE LANE. ON COMPLETION OF THIS \$1 BILLION PROJECT IN 1997, EAST-WEST BOUND TRAFFIC BETWEEN KWUN TONG AND KWAI CHUNG WILL BE GREATLY IMPROVED.

"THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE \$3.7 BILLION TING KAU BRIDGE WILL BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR, ALSO FOR COMPLETION BY 1997. THE BRIDGE WHICH WILL LINK UP ROUTE-3 WILL PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO RELIEVE THE TRAFFIC ON THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY WHICH IS NOW BEING IMPROVED BY CONSTRUCTING FOUR SECTIONS OF HILL-CLIMBING LANES.

THE 94/95 DRAFT ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE ALSO COVERS SPENDING ON WIDENING OF THE SIU LAM - SO KWUN TAN SECTION OF THE CASTLE PEAK ROAD, THE YUEN LONG SOUTHERN BYPASS AND THE SECOND AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE.

MR BARMA SAID ALL TRANSPORT PROJECTS NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN ARE PROGRESSING WELL ON SCHEDULE AND WITHIN BUDGET.

"WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING OUR ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN PARALLEL WITH OTHER TRANSPORT STRATEGIES TO ENSURE THAT OUR TRAFFIC KEEPS MOVING WITHOUT UNDERMINING OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH," HE SAID.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1994

- 3 -

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO
SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT MRS LAURA CHA IS TO BE APPOINTED AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC) WITH EFFECT FROM TOMORROW (MARCH 1).

THE APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN EXERCISE OF HIS DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM THE GOVERNOR UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE SFC ORDINANCE.

MRS CHA WILL TAKE OVER AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CORPORATE FINANCE) FROM MR ERMANNO PASCUTTO WHO WILL BE LEAVING THE COMMISSION SHORTLY ON COMPLETION OF HIS CONTRACT.

MRS CHA JOINED THE SFC ON JANUARY 1, 1991 AND IS CURRENTLY A SENIOR DIRECTOR OF THE CORPORATE FINANCE DIVISION.

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, SHE WAS PRIMARILY INVOLVED IN POLICY MATTERS CONNECTED WITH CORPORATE FINANCE ISSUES AND THE PROGRAMME FOR THE LISTING OF CHINESE STATE ENTERPRISES IN HONG KONG. SHE PRACTISED LAW BEFORE JOINING THE SFC.

"WITH HER EXPENIENCE IN THE CORPORATE FINANCE DIVISION OF THE SFC, I AM CONFIDENT THAT MRS CHA IS THE MOST SUITABLE PERSON TO LEAD THE DIVISION," SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID.

MR CARTLAND ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO MR ERMANNO PASCUTTO FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION IN ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN HONG KONG.

MR PASCUTTO JOINED THE COMMISSION WHEN IT WAS FIRST SET UP IN MAY 1989 AND HAS HEADED THE CORPORATE FINANCE DIVISION EVER SINCE.

MR CARTLAND SAID: "IT WAS DURING THIS PERIOD THAT WE SAW THE GRADUAL CONSOLIDATION OF A SOUND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN HONG KONG AND RAPID GROWTH IN THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF COMPANIES LISTING ON OUR STOCK EXCHANGE.

"MR PASCUTTO'S EFFORT HAS CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO ENHANCING HONG KONG'S COMPETENCE AND CREDIBILITY IN HANDLING THE RAPIDLY GROWING CORPORATE FINANCE SECTOR. HIS EXPERTISE AND HARD WORK HAVE BEEN A VALUABLE RESOURCE IN BUILDING UP HONG KONG'S REGULATORY SYSTEM," MR CARTLAND SAID.

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PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JANUARY 1994

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RE-EXPORTS SHOWED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN JANUARY THIS YEAR OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS ALSO REGISTERED A MODERATE INCREASE. IMPORTS ROSE MARKEDLY.

THESE ARE SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JANUARY RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS, AT \$66,771 MILLION IN JANUARY 1994, WAS \$17,606 MILLION OR 36% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$781 MILLION OR 5.4% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$15,340 MILLION IN JANUARY.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN JANUARY 1994 GREW BY \$18,387 MILLION OR 29% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$82,111 MILLION.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$17,027 MILLION OR 27% TO \$80,378 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS LARGER THAN THAT OF TOTAL IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS OF \$1,734 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 2.2% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN JANUARY 1994.

THIS COMPARED WITH A SURPLUS OF \$374 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 0.6% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN JANUARY 1993.

REFLECTING A CONTINUING RAPID CHANGE IN THE COMPOSITION OF HONG KONG'S EXPORT TRADE, THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE TO 81% IN JANUARY 1994, FROM 77% IN JANUARY 1993.

COMMENTING ON THE JANUARY TRADE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID AFTER EXPERIENCING A RELATIVELY LESS RAPID GROWTH IN THE PREVIOUS MONTHS, RE-EXPORTS PICKED UP SUBSTANTIALLY IN JANUARY.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS ALSO REBOUNDED TO POSITIVE GROWTH AFTER THE DECLINES IN THE EARLIER PERIODS, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THESE GROWTH RATES COULD HAVE BEEN DISTORTED TO SOME EXTENT BY THE DIFFERENCE IN TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, WHICH WAS IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR BUT WAS IN JANUARY LAST YEAR.

"COMPARISON OF FIGURES COVERING THE FIRST QUARTER AS A WHOLE SHOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE," HE SAID.

THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF RETAINED IMPORTS IN JANUARY 1994 WAS 12.4%, COMPARED WITH A FALL OF 4.5% IN DECEMBER 1993.

A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JANUARY 1994, BY COMMODITY AND COUNTRY, WILL BE RELEASED IN MID-MARCH.

- 5 -

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JANUARY 1994:

MERCHANDISE: DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$15,340	MILLION
RE-EXPORTS	:	\$66,771	MILLION
TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$82,111	MILLION
IMPORTS	:	\$80,378	MILLION
TRADE BALANCE	:	+\$1,734	MILLION

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	NOV 93 TO	NOV 92 TO	CHANGE	
	JAN 94	JAN 93	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	55,067	56,544	-1,477	-2.6
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(20.6%)	(24.2%)		
RE-EXPORTS	212,896	176,754	+36,142	+20.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	267,963	233,298	+34,664	+14.9
IMPORTS	268,897	238,690	+30,207	+12.7
TRADE BALANCE	-934	-5,391	+4,457	
SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	JANUARY	JANUARY	CHANGE	
	1994	1993	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	15,340	14,559	+781	+5.4
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(18.7%)	(22.8%)		
RE-EXPORTS	66,771	49,165	+17,606	+35.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	82,111	63,724	+18,387	+28.9
IMPORTS	80,378	63,350	+17,027	+26.9
TRADE BALANCE	1,734	374	+1,360	
LAST MONTH	JANUARY	DECEMBER	CHANGE	
	1994	1993	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	15,340	20,582	-5,242	-25.5
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(18.7%)	(21.8%)		
RE-EXPORTS	66,771	73,774	-7,003	-9.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	82,111	94,356	-12,245	-13.0
IMPORTS	80,378	96,058	-15,681	-16.3
TRADE BALANCE	1,734	-1,702	+3,436	
LAST 12 MONTHS	FEB 93 TO	FEB 92 TO	CHANGE	
	JAN 94	JAN 93	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	223,808	234,518	-10,710	-4.6
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(21.0%)	(25.1%)		
RE-EXPORTS	840,830	700,986	+139,844	+19.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	1,064,637	935,503	+129,134	+13.8
IMPORTS	1,089,625	962,737	+126,888	+13.2
TRADE BALANCE	-24,987	-27,233	+2,246	

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1994

- 6 -

TAXI DRIVER TO DISPLAY IDENTITY PLATE FROM APRIL

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TAXI DRIVERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO DISPLAY THEIR IDENTITY PLATES FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT ALTHOUGH THE REGULATIONS TO THIS EFFECT WOULD BE IN FORCE ON APRIL 1, A GRACE PERIOD WOULD BE ALLOWED AND ENFORCEMENT WOULD START ON JULY 1.

THIS MEASURE WOULD FACILITATE PASSENGERS TO LODGE COMPLAINTS AGAINST MISBEHAVED TAXI DRIVERS AND WOULD ENCOURAGE TAXI DRIVERS TO EXERCISE SELF-DISCIPLINE AS A MEASURE TO DEAL WITH TAXI MALPRACTICE.

A TAXI DRIVER IDENTITY PLATE SHALL SHOW THE CAPTION "TAXI DRIVER IDENTITY PLATE", THE DRIVER'S FULL NAME IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE AND A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE DRIVER.

THE PLATE WILL HAVE TO BE SLOTTED IN A HOLDER BEARING THE REGISTRATION MARK OF THE TAXI. THE IDENTITY PLATE AND THE HOLDER WILL HAVE TO BE MOUNTED ON THE DASHBOARD TO THE LEFT OF THE TAXI METER FLAG UNIT AND FACING THE FRONT-SEAT PASSENGERS.

THE TAXI DRIVER IDENTITY PLATE AND THE PLATE HOLDER WILL BE PRODUCED BY THE TAXI OPERATOR/ASSOCIATION ACCORDING TO THE SPECIFICATIONS SET BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

TO HELP THE TAXI OPERATOR/ASSOCIATION, BLANK TAXI DRIVER IDENTITY PLATES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT ALL LICENSING OFFICES OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT; THE PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IN ROOM 27, MEZZANINE FLOOR, 2 MURRAY ROAD, HONG KONG; AND PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES OF ALL DISTRICT OFFICES.

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UPGC TO PUBLISH INTERIM REPORT ON
DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) WILL PUBLISH ITS INTERIM REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION 1991-2001 AND A DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION EARLY NEXT MONTH.

IT WILL ALSO SEEK AN INFORMED DIALOGUE WITH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE EDUCATION COMMISSION AND LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM UP TO AND BEYOND THE END OF THE CENTURY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (MONDAY) SAID THE VIEWS RECEIVED FROM INTERESTED PARTIES WOULD BE ASSESSED BY THE UPGC AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DRAFTING THE FINAL REPORT FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

/THE INTERIM

THE INTERIM REPORT WAS FIRST CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN AUGUST 1993 AND ITS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON THE INDICATIVE STUDENT NUMBER TARGETS BY INSTITUTION, LEVEL AND YEAR FOR THE 1995-98 TRIENNIUM WERE APPROVED FOR BROAD PLANNING PURPOSES.

THE UPGC ALSO RECOMMENDED IN ITS INTERIM REPORT THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO FACILITATING THE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS OF "CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE".

AS THIS CONCEPT RELATED TO HONG KONG'S POSITION IN THE REGION AND BEYOND HAVING REGARD TO THE STRATEGIC, ACADEMIC AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS OF DEVELOPING SUCH CENTRES WITHIN THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG, IT WAS FURTHER ELABORATED BY THE UPGC AND AN EXPANDED INTERIM REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL THIS MONTH.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE PROPOSAL ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED TO RECEIVE PUBLIC VIEWS WAS THE UPGC'S FAVOURED OPTION OF DEVELOPING CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE WITHIN THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

HE SAID THE UPGC'S LONG-TERM VISION OF THE FUTURE WAS THAT THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE WORLD-CLASS INSTITUTIONS WHICH SHOULD:

- * INCORPORATE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED GROUPS OF DEPARTMENTS AS CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE HAVING LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FUNCTIONS;
- * PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY BILINGUAL MANPOWER FOR BOTH HONG KONG AND THE HINTERLAND;
- * ACT AS POINTS OF REFERENCE, PARTICULARLY IN INNOVATIVE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN CHINA AND MORE WIDELY; AND
- * HAVE WITHIN APPROVED TARGETS SOME UNDERGRADUATES AND UP TO ONE-THIRD POSTGRADUATE NON-LOCAL STUDENTS.

THE UPGC EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO PREDICT THE PRECISE COST FOR THIS KIND OF DEVELOPMENT.

HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE ESTIMATED THAT THE ADDITIONAL COST OF OPERATING CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE AFTER FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS PROPOSALS COULD BE BETWEEN FIVE PER CENT AND 10 PER CENT ABOVE CURRENT PROJECTIONS.

THIS WOULD REPRESENT BETWEEN \$400 MILLION AND \$800 MILLION AT CURRENT PRICES, BUT THE UPGC HAS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD LIKELY TAKE UP TO 10 YEARS TO REACH THIS LEVEL.

"CLEARLY THIS IS AN INTERESTING PROPOSAL," SAID THE SPOKESMAN, ADDING THAT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS WOULD NEED TO BE EXAMINED CAREFULLY HAVING REGARD TO THE COMPETING NEEDS OF THE SCHOOL SECTOR WHERE IMPROVEMENTS WERE ALSO MUCH REQUIRED.

"IN PRINCIPLE, A PLAN SUCH AS THIS TO ENSURE THAT THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS ARE WORLD RENOWNED AND CAPABLE OF MEETING HONG KONG'S FUTURE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS IS TO BE WELCOMED.

"HOWEVER, WE SHALL NEED TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPING CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL ACADEMIC MERITS AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS, AND ABOVE ALL, IN RELATION TO THE COMPETITION FOR SCARCE RESOURCES FOR FUNDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AS A WHOLE."

THE UPGC'S INTERIM REPORT ALSO REFERS TO THE NEED TO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE BALANCE IN PROVISION BETWEEN INITIAL HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE UPDATING AND RE-ORIENTATION OF KNOWLEDGE THROUGHOUT AN INDIVIDUAL'S ADULT LIFE.

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT AND ENABLES PEOPLE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE.

"WE NEED TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC NOT ONLY ON THE ORGANISATION AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS OF THIS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, BUT ALSO ON ITS RELATIVE IMPORTANCE AND INTERFACE WITHIN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AS A WHOLE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

DETAILS OF THE CONSULTATION PROGRAMME WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THE UPGC IN EARLY MARCH WHEN COPIES OF THE INTERIM REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO INTERESTED PARTIES.

THE UPGC PLANS TO SUBMIT ITS FINAL REPORT ON THE REVIEW BY LATE 1994 OR EARLY 1995.

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CENTRAL ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY ONE PLACES

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ALL CHILDREN WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR A PUBLIC-SECTOR PRIMARY ONE PLACE BUT HAVE NOT SECURED A DISCRETIONARY PLACE WILL BE CENTRALLY ALLOCATED TO A GOVERNMENT OR AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR THE 1994 SCHOOL YEAR.

THEY WILL RECEIVE A LETTER IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS FROM THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REQUESTING THEM TO GO TO A SPECIFIED DISTRIBUTION AND COLLECTION CENTRE TO COLLECT A "CHOICE OF SCHOOLS" FORM AND A LIST OF ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THEIR HOME DISTRICT FROM MARCH 5 (SATURDAY) TO MARCH 7 (MONDAY) FROM 9.30 AM TO 12.30 PM AND 1.30 PM TO 4.30 PM.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SAME CENTRE WITHIN THE SAME PERIOD.

ALL DISTRIBUTION AND COLLECTION CENTRES WILL REMAIN OPEN DURING THE SPECIFIED TIME ON SUNDAY (MARCH 6).

PARENTS ARE REMINDED THAT IF THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT BY MARCH 4, THEY SHOULD CONTACT THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT ON 572 4383 IMMEDIATELY.

/PARENTS WHO

PARENTS WHO HAVE MOVED HOUSE RECENTLY OR ARE PLANNING TO MOVE HOUSE IN THE NEAR FUTURE MUST INFORM THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO ALLOCATE A PLACE TO THEIR CHILDREN IN THEIR NEW HOME DISTRICT.

RESULTS OF THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION, WHICH IS SOLELY BASED ON PARENTAL CHOICE, WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY JUNE.

PARENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO MAKE USE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE 891 0088 FOR INFORMATION ON THE PRIMARY ONE CENTRAL ALLOCATION SYSTEM OR OTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

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VIEWS SOUGHT ON HIGHER EDUCATION INTERIM REPORT

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THE CHAIRMAN OF UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC), MR ANTONY K C LEUNG, TODAY (MONDAY) SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED THAT THE COMMITTEE'S INTERIM REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT SHOULD BE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

"THE UPGC WILL BE SEEKING AN INFORMED DIALOGUE WITH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE EDUCATION COMMISSION AND LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S HIGHER EDUCATION UP TO AND BEYOND THE END OF THE CENTURY.

"ALL RELEVANT COMMENTS WILL BE STUDIED BY THE COMMITTEE VERY CAREFULLY AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE PREPARATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S FINAL REPORT LATER THIS YEAR," MR LEUNG SAID.

COPIES OF THE INTERIM REPORT AND DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO INTERESTED PARTIES ON FRIDAY (MARCH 4).

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MR ANTONY LEUNG WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 11 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 4) TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF UPGC SECRETARIAT, SECOND FLOOR, HUTCHISON HOUSE, CENTRAL.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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FS TO PRESENT BUDGET ON WEDNESDAY

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HONG KONG'S BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1994/95 WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 2).

THE PROCEEDINGS WILL START AT 2.30 PM AND THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, WILL MOVE THE FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1994, AND OUTLINE THE ESTIMATED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1994/95.

THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE WERE SET OUT IN THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1994 WHICH WAS GAZETTED LAST FRIDAY.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WILL BE ADJOURNED UNTIL MARCH 23 AND 24, WHEN MEMBERS WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE BUDGET PROPOSALS.

OFFICIALS WILL GIVE THEIR REPLIES ON MARCH 30.

ON MARCH 16, 17 AND 18, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD SPECIAL MEETINGS TO EXAMINE THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

GIS WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 2) TO ENABLE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO START WORK EARLY ON THE BUDGET.

MEDIA MEMBERS WILL BE GIVEN ADVANCE COPIES OF THE BUDGET SPEECH AND ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AT NOON.

THEY MUST STAY IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL TO WORK ON THEIR COPIES AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE UNTIL THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY CONCLUDES HIS SPEECH. LIGHT REFRESHMENT WILL BE PROVIDED.

CONTACTS OF ANY KIND WITH OUTSIDE, SUCH AS TELEPHONE OR COMPUTER LINKS, ARE PROHIBITED DURING THE CLOSED WORKING SESSION. ALSO, MOBILE TELEPHONES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE CONFERENCE ROOM.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM THE FINANCE BRANCH AND THE FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM FROM 12.30 PM. THEY WILL NOT GIVE INTERVIEWS AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE QUOTED.

SIR HAMISH WILL MEET THE MEDIA AT THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM AROUND 4.30 PM TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUDGET AFTER HIS DELIVERY OF THE SPEECH IN THE LEGCO.

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TV VIEWING GROUPS ATTEND RECEPTION

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THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY AND THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY (TELA) TODAY (MONDAY) HOSTED A RECEPTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE TELEVISION VIEWING GROUPS AND ADVISORY PANELS.

THE TELEVISION VIEWING ADVISORY SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN 1982 WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF KEEPING THE GOVERNMENT IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMUNITY'S PERCEPTION OF TELEVISION PROGRAMME STANDARDS AND OTHER BROADCASTING MATTERS.

TELEVISION VIEWING GROUPS HAVE BEEN SET UP IN 19 DISTRICTS WITH A TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF MORE THAN 600 PERSONS COMING FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE FIVE ADVISORY PANELS, COMPRISING ONE ON THE ENGLISH SERVICES, ONE ON CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMES, AND THREE REGIONAL PANELS.

AT THE RECEPTION, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY, SIR ROGER LOBO, PRESENTED LONG SERVICE SOUVENIRS TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE SCHEME FOR 10 YEARS.

THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, AND MEMBERS OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY, MR IRA KAYE, MRS GLORIA CHAN AND DR KENNETH LEUNG, PRESENTED CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF THE TELEVISION VIEWING GROUPS AND THE ADVISORY PANEL ON THE ENGLISH SERVICES FOR FIVE YEARS.

MORE THAN 350 GUESTS INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE TELEVISION VIEWING ADVISORY GROUPS AND PANELS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ATV, TVB, STAR TV, WHARF CABLE, COMMERCIAL RADIO, METRO BROADCAST AND RTHK WERE PRESENT AT THE RECEPTION.

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SEVEN BODIES TO RAISE FUNDS IN MARCH

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SEVEN ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO RAISE FUNDS NEXT MONTH, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THEY WILL EITHER SELL FLAGS, TOKENS OR SIMILAR ITEMS, OR PLACE DONATION BOXES IN DESIGNATED PUBLIC AREAS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN CALL THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE 343 2255 OR THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE'S 866 8123 IN CASE OF DOUBT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE APPEALED TO ORGANISERS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE FRAUD.

/"SELLERS SHOULD

"SELLERS SHOULD DISPLAY THE PERMIT OR CARRY COPIES OF THE PERMIT FOR INSPECTION UPON REQUEST IF THE FUND-RAISING IS MOBILE," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED THEM TO PREPARE GUIDELINES FOR SELLERS, SETTING OUT THE PLACES AND THE TIMES FOR SELLING AND THE COLLECTION POINTS FOR BAGS.

ORGANISERS SHOULD INFORM THE POLICE IN CASE OF LOSS OF PROPERTY, AND SEEK THEIR HELP WHEN FRAUDULENT ACTS, SUCH AS TAMPERING OF COLLECTION BAGS OR MAKING UNAUTHORISED SELLING, ARE FOUND, HE SAID.

PERMITS ARE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS FOR RAISING FUNDS NEXT MONTH:

FLAGS

EVENT DATE

ORGANISATION

MARCH 5	HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND
MARCH 12	YAN OI TONG LTD
MARCH 19	YAN CHAI HOSPITAL
MARCH 26	HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

EVENT DATE

ORGANISATION

MARCH 6	THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF JESUS CHRIST, THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME, ADMINISTRATOR, INC.
MARCH 12 19	LAND OF VIRTUE CENTRE LTD
MARCH 5 - 6 12 - 13 19 - 20 26 - 27	HONG KONG COUNCIL OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND SERVICES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1994

- 13 -

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR IN-SERVICE COURSES

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PART-TIME IN-SERVICE COURSES OF TRAINING FOR TEACHERS ARE NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS.

THE COURSES ARE PROVIDED FOR TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN GOVERNMENT, AIDED OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS WHO, ALTHOUGH SUITABLY QUALIFIED ACADEMICALLY, DO NOT POSSESS THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS WHICH WOULD MAKE THEM ELIGIBLE FOR CLASSIFICATION AS "QUALIFIED TEACHERS".

APPLICANTS WHO HAVE NO TEACHING EXPERIENCE BUT WHO WISH TO TEACH IN THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR MAY ALSO APPLY FOR THESE COURSES.

COURSES WILL START IN THE 1994/95 ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE COURSES, WHICH USED TO BE PROVIDED BY THE THREE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE, WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION TO BE SET UP IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

APPLICANTS CAN CHOOSE TWO-YEAR OR THREE-YEAR COURSES AT THE PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL.

THERE IS ALSO A TWO-YEAR COURSE FOR TECHNICAL TEACHERS. ALL ARE PART-TIME COURSES.

APPLICATION FORMS AND FURTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, 15TH FLOOR, WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI, AS WELL AS THE THREE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9.

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CLOSURE OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE TWO UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN KWUN TONG SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE SINGLE-STOREY STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED ON THE ROOFTOP OF BLOCK 3 OF KWUN TONG INDUSTRIAL CENTRE, 448-458 KWUN TONG ROAD. THEY ARE USED FOR DWELLING AND WORKSHOP PURPOSES.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR TWO CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON JUNE 29 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (MONDAY).

DEMOLITION WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 68.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 400.783 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 310.300 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 52.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,850
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,150
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-320
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,680
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 125.6 *-0.1* 28.2.94

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.41	18 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.35	4.42
1 MONTH	3.43	21 MONTHS	2511	4.15	99.33	4.61
3 MONTHS	3.50	24 MONTHS	2602	4.40	99.39	4.78
6 MONTHS	3.65	32 MONTHS	3610	4.20	97.93	5.10
12 MONTHS	4.05	35 MONTHS	3701	4.60	98.53	5.22

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,540 MN

CLOSED 28 FEBRUARY 1994

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