



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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RESULTS OF 1988 SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION
AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) RELEASED THE RESULTS OF THE 1988 SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS WHICH WAS CONDUCTED FROM APRIL 1989 TO EARLY 1990.

THE SURVEY RESULTS INDICATED THAT 10,672 CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS HAD OPERATED IN 1988.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY THESE ESTABLISHMENTS DURING 1988 AMOUNTED TO \$69,267 MILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 24 PER CENT OVER THE CORRESPONDING VALUE IN 1987.

ALL VALUE FIGURES IN THIS PRESS RELEASE ARE EXPRESSED IN CURRENT PRICE TERMS. THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES DERIVED FROM THESE FIGURES HAVE NOT BEEN ADJUSTED FOR COST INCREASES.

CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IN INTERPRETING THE SURVEY RESULTS BECAUSE IN 1988, UNIT CONSTRUCTION COST HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER 1987.

IN 1988, THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY THE CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS WAS \$67,715 MILLION.

THIS INCLUDED \$17,090 MILLION ON COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES AND PAYMENTS TO LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS; \$19,384 MILLION ON CONSUMPTION OF MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES; \$27,474 MILLION ON SUB-CONTRACT WORK RENDERED BY FEE SUB-CONTRACTORS; AND \$3,767 MILLION ON MISCELLANEOUS OPERATING EXPENSES.

AT \$19,926 MILLION, THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH IS A MEASURE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, WAS 21 PER CENT MORE THAN THAT IN 1987.

SOME 40 PER CENT OF THE CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS WERE ENGAGED IN RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ERECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES. HOWEVER, THEY ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY 11 PER CENT OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GENERAL TRADE CONTRACTORS OPERATING AT CONSTRUCTION SITES REPRESENTED ABOUT 8 PER CENT OF THE NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS, BUT ACCOUNTED FOR \$43,699 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED.

THE REST OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CONSISTED MOSTLY OF SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS, SUCH AS CONTRACTORS SPECIALISING IN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL FITTINGS, WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 26 PER CENT OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED.

THE SURVEY DID NOT COVER LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS WHO MAINLY SUPPLIED LABOUR TO WORK ON A JOB-TO-JOB BASIS. HOWEVER, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY THESE SUB-CONTRACTORS WAS ALREADY INCLUDED IN THAT OF CONTRACTORS COMMISSIONING THEIR SERVICES.

/APART FROM

APART FROM CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS, THE SURVEY ALSO ENUMERATED ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES: REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT, LEASING, BROKERAGE AND MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT; AND ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PROJECT ENGINEERING.

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY RESULTS, 4,814 ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT, LEASING, BROKERAGE AND MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES HAD OPERATED DURING 1988.

THEIR GROSS OUTPUT IN 1988 WAS \$36,725 MILLION WHICH INCLUDED \$16,198 MILLION FROM SERVICE AND RENTAL INCOME, \$20,068 MILLION FROM GROSS MARGIN OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (EXCLUDING LAND PRICE APPRECIATION) AND \$459 MILLION FROM OTHER INCOME.

THEIR TOTAL EXPENDITURE WAS \$10,110 MILLION. AT \$32,196 MILLION, THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS WAS 43 PER CENT MORE THAN THAT IN 1987.

THESE FIGURES DID NOT INCLUDE ESTABLISHMENTS THAT DEVELOPED REAL ESTATE PROJECTS FOR THEIR OWN OCCUPATION OR THOSE THAT OWNED LAND WITHOUT DEVELOPING IT DURING THE REFERENCE YEAR. ALSO EXCLUDED WERE REAL ESTATE LEASING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS OR HOUSEHOLDS.

REGARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PROJECT ENGINEERING SERVICES, THE SURVEY RESULTS INDICATED THAT 658 SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS HAD OPERATED IN 1988.

THEIR TOTAL BUSINESS RECEIPTS WERE \$3,417 MILLION, AND TOTAL EXPENDITURE WAS \$2,867 MILLION OF WHICH \$1,650 MILLION WAS ON COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES.

THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS WAS \$2,182 MILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 17 PER CENT OVER 1987.

THE SURVEY ALSO COLLECTED DATA ABOUT CONSTRUCTION SITES AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY RESULTS, A TOTAL OF 2,049 SITE CONTRACTS WERE IN OPERATION IN 1988 WITH THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AMOUNTING TO \$33,152 MILLION, WHICH WAS 26 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING VALUE IN 1987.

THIS INCLUDED \$10,743 MILLION ON PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION SITES AND \$22,409 MILLION ON PRIVATE ONES.

THE SHARE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES WAS 32 PER CENT IN 1988, WHICH WAS THE SAME AS IN 1987.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, AT \$15,905 MILLION IN 1988, WAS 33 PER CENT ABOVE THAT IN 1987.

THE INCREASE OCCURRED MOSTLY IN PRIVATE HOUSING PROJECTS WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 63 PER CENT OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN 1988, COMPARED WITH 65 PER CENT IN 1987.

FOR REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, THE VALUE ACCRUED TO PRIVATE PROJECTS DURING 1988 WAS \$39,314 MILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 36 PER CENT OVER THE CORRESPONDING VALUE IN 1987.

THE TOTAL PROJECT OUTLAY WAS \$21,030 MILLION WHICH INCLUDED, FOR INSTANCE, PAYMENTS TO CONTRACTORS AND INTEREST PAYMENTS.

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR THE 1988 SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE APRIL 1990 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

MORE DETAILED RESULTS WILL BE GIVEN IN A FULL SURVEY REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED IN JULY 1990.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING THESE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. 823 4977).

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SCHOOL CURRICULUM AIMED AT MEETING HK'S NEEDS
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THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING ITS BEST TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH A QUALITY CURRICULUM CAPABLE OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF BOTH INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR K.Y. YEUNG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

ADDRESSING THE JOINT SPEECH DAY FOR 18 SCHOOLS SPONSORED BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CHINA, MR YEUNG SAID THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WAS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

"IT IS CONSIDERING POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE COMMON-CORE CURRICULUM IN OUR NINE YEARS OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION, AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WAY WE DEVELOP OUR CURRICULUM," HE SAID.

THE COMMON-CORE CURRICULUM WAS INTRODUCED IN 1975 AT THE JUNIOR SECONDARY LEVEL. IT HAD THE BENEFIT OF SAFEGUARDING EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL PUPILS, AND PROVIDING CURRICULUM CONTINUITY BETWEEN DIFFERENT LEVELS OF EDUCATION AND ENSURING CONSISTENCY OF PRACTICE AMONG SCHOOLS.

MR YEUNG SAID THE REVIEW OF THE CORE CURRICULUM WOULD, OF COURSE, INCLUDE A REVIEW OF THE STATUS AND ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, WHICH WAS AN ADVISORY BODY CHAIRED BY AN NON-OFFICIAL TO ADVISE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT FOR THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM FROM KINDERGARTEN TO THE SIXTH FORM.

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HE NOTED THAT THE PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS SET BY THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY HAD TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT DICTATED THE FORM AND CONTENT OF SCHOOLS' CURRICULUM.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS INFLUENCE BE KEPT IN CHECK, TO PREVENT THE DANGERS OF AN EXAMINATION DOMINATED CURRICULUM," HE SAID.

ANOTHER PROBLEM THE COMMISSION WAS LOOKING AT WAS THE ABSENCE OF A CLEAR DELINEATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR CURRICULUM MATTERS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT - (IN PRACTICE, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH AND THE EDUCATION COMMISSION) - AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (IN PRACTICE, ITS ADVISORY BODIES, THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION).

"IN MY VIEW ONE WAY TO CLARIFY THIS RELATIONSHIP IS TO HAVE TWO CLEARLY DEFINED LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR CURRICULUM MATTERS - THE POLICY MAKING LEVEL AND THE IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL," HE SAID.

"THE POLICY MAKING LEVEL, REPRESENTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER AND THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LAYING DOWN THE BASIC AIMS FOR EDUCATION AT DIFFERENT LEVELS.

"IT SHOULD ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM FOR SETTING ATTAINMENT TARGETS FOR ACHIEVEMENT AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF EDUCATION, ENSURING THAT THE SYSTEM WORKS, AND ENSURING THAT APPROPRIATE CURRICULA ARE DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED."

THE IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL - REPRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR UNDERTAKING THOSE ACTIVITIES REQUIRED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CURRICULUM POLICY.

HE SAID THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WAS ALSO LOOKING AT WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE TO MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION FOR ACADEMICALLY GIFTED CHILDREN, AND, AT THE OTHER END OF THE SPECTRUM, SPECIAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACADEMICALLY DISINCLINED.

"I AM CONFIDENT IT WILL COME OUT WITH MEANINGFUL AND FAR REACHING RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL DETERMINE THE SHAPE AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS IN THE 1990S," HE SAID.

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HK COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION ESTABLISHED

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THE HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION (HKCAA) CAME INTO OPERATION ON JUNE 8, 1990.

"ONE OF THE HKCAA'S MAIN PURPOSES IS TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG DEGREES ARE COMPARABLE WITH THE BEST WORLD-WIDE," THE COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MR ALLAN SENSICLE, SAID.

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AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF HONG KONG'S MASSIVE EXPANSION OF DEGREE EDUCATION, THE HKCAA WAS ESTABLISHED BY GOVERNMENT, AND HAS THE DAUNTING TASK OF VALIDATING DEGREE COURSES IN THE NON-UNIVERSITY TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

ITS ESTABLISHMENT IS A RESULT OF NEARLY TWO YEARS' WORK BY A PROVISIONAL COUNCIL SET UP BY GOVERNMENT TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THIS INDEPENDENT STATUTORY BODY.

THE HKCAA MAY EVALUATE INDIVIDUAL COURSES AT INSTITUTIONS, OR REVIEW THE ACADEMIC STRUCTURE OR STANDARD OF THE INSTITUTION AS A WHOLE. INITIALLY, THERE WILL BE SOME INSTITUTIONAL REVIEWS BUT THE MAIN EMPHASIS WILL BE ON THE VALIDATION OF DEGREE COURSES.

LATER, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INSTITUTIONS, THE HKCAA WILL MOVE TOWARDS ACCREDITING THEM SO THEY HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR VALIDATING THEIR OWN COURSES SUBJECT TO PERIODIC REVIEW.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS

THE HKCAA WILL ALSO WORK TOWARDS BECOMING AN AUTHORITY ON THE COMPARABILITY OF DEGREE QUALIFICATIONS BOTH WITHIN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS.

THIS IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS OF CREDIT TRANSFERS AND AGREEMENTS FOR THE RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS TO THE BENEFIT OF HONG KONG STUDENTS, THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, THEIR GRADUATES, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

AS A STEP TOWARDS THIS GOAL, IN 1991, THE HKCAA WILL HOLD THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

THE HKCAA WILL UNDERTAKE ITS VALIDATIONS AND REVIEWS AT THE REQUEST OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) AND OF OTHER TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WITH THE GOVERNOR'S CONSENT.

DISTINGUISHED COUNCIL

GOVERNMENT HAS APPOINTED A COUNCIL, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DR DAVID BETHEL, OF 22 DISTINGUISHED ACADEMICS AND PROFESSIONALS, A THIRD OF WHOM ARE OVERSEAS MEMBERS.

THE FULL TIME STAFF OF THE HKCAA COMPRISES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PLUS FOUR OTHER PROFESSIONALS WITH CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE OF ACCREDITATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

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FIVE HUNDRED SPECIALISTS

THE COUNCIL IS SUPPORTED BY A REGISTER OF OVER 500 SUBJECT SPECIALISTS DRAWN FROM AUSTRALIA, EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND HONG KONG WHO WILL FORM THE BACKBONE OF THE VALIDATION AND REVIEW TEAMS.

THE HKCAA, ITS STAFF AND SPECIALISTS WILL WORK WITH EDUCATORS TO ENSURE HONG KONG'S INSTITUTIONS AND DEGREES ARE MAINTAINED AT INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS.

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TIGHTER GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL ON BUILDING WORKS PROPOSED

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A BILL PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY) PROPOSES TO EMPOWER THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO TIGHTEN GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OVER BUILDING WORKS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE NORTH-WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES WHERE UNDERGROUND CAVITIES ARE PRESENT.

THE CONTROL MEASURES ARE INCLUDED IN THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE.

IN EXPLAINING THE BILL, GOVERNMENT GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER, MR JOHN SHELTON, SAID THAT SERIOUS FOUNDATION DIFFICULTIES HAD BEEN ENCOUNTERED IN AN AREA OF THE NORTH-WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES (AROUND YUEN LONG) WHICH WAS UNDERLAIN BY KARSTIC MARBLE BEDROCK.

"IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA PROCEEDS SAFELY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ADEQUATE CONTROL MEASURES ARE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

MR SHELTON POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL, WHICH SEEKS TO AMEND THE EXISTING BUILDINGS ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS, WAS INTRODUCED AS A RESULT OF STUDIES COMMISSIONED BY THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE.

HE SAID, "MARBLE WITH CAVITIES, TERMED 'KARST' BY GEOLOGISTS, OCCURS IN ISOLATED PATCHES BENEATH AN APPROXIMATELY TRIANGULAR AREA OF LAND EXTENDING FROM TAI TONG SOUTH OF YUEN LONG, HA TSUEN SOUTH OF TIN SHUI WAI TO FAIRVIEW PARK."

MR SHELTON SAID THE MARBLE STRATA CONTAINED SIGNIFICANT CAVITIES AND SOLUTION FEATURES IN SOME LOCATIONS AND THE GEOLOGY OF THE AREA WAS HIGHLY COMPLEX.

HE SAID THAT SAFE DEVELOPMENT OF A SITE IN SUCH A GEOLOGICALLY COMPLEX AREA REQUIRED A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE GEOLOGICAL FEATURES UNDERLYING THE SITE AND HOW THEY AFFECTED THE ENGINEERING BEHAVIOUR OF THE FOUNDATIONS.

THIS COULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY CARRYING OUT PROPERLY DESIGNED, HIGH QUALITY AND RELIABLE GROUND INVESTIGATIONS, AND CAREFUL INTERPRETATION OF THE GROUND INVESTIGATION RESULTS.

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IN THE AMENDMENT LEGISLATION, THE AREA CONCERNED WOULD BE INTRODUCED AS AN ADDITIONAL SCHEDULED AREA IN THE FIFTH SCHEDULE OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE WITH AMENDMENTS CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

- (A) GROUND INVESTIGATION PLANS REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE BUILDING AUTHORITY PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORKS;
- (B) A GEOTECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF THE GROUND CONDITIONS IS REQUIRED TO ACCOMPANY THE FOUNDATION DESIGN SUBMISSION; AND
- (C) THE CONDITIONS EXPERIENCED DURING PILE INSTALLATION AND FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION REQUIRE TO BE DOCUMENTED AND REVIEWED AND THIS REVIEW REQUIRES THE APPROVAL OF THE BUILDING AUTHORITY.

ITEM (A) OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL PROVIDE A BASIS OF ENFORCEMENT OF THE TECHNICAL STANDARDS OF GROUND INVESTIGATIONS AND THE DEGREE OF QUALIFIED SUPERVISION NEEDED.

ITEM (B) WILL ENSURE THAT IMPORTANT GEOLOGICAL FEATURES ARE CONSIDERED IN FOUNDATION DESIGNS.

IN KARST AREAS, THERE IS ALWAYS A RISK DESPITE CONSERVATIVE DESIGN THAT FOUNDATION PROBLEMS MIGHT ARISE. IN ORDER TO MINIMISE THIS RISK, ITEM (C) OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION EMPOWERS THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE THE AUTHORISED PERSON AND THE REGISTERED STRUCTURAL ENGINEER TO SUBMIT, PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF SUPERSTRUCTURE WORKS, A FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION REVIEW CARRIED OUT BY AN EXPERIENCED ENGINEER, BASED ON DETAILED CONSTRUCTION RECORDS.

"THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE HAS ENGAGED A SPECIALIST FOUNDATION CONSULTANT TO ADVISE ON DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PRACTICE FOR DEEP FOUNDATIONS IN THESE DIFFICULT GROUND CONDITIONS," MR SHELTON SAID.

A NUMBER OF HIS RECOMMENDATIONS WERE CONVEYED TO PRACTISING ENGINEERS THROUGH THE ISSUE OF A PRACTICE NOTE FOR AUTHORISED PERSONS AND REGISTERED STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS IN FEBRUARY 1989.

MR SHELTON ALSO SAID THAT TO IDENTIFY THE AREAS UNDERLAIN BY MARBLE BEDROCK, THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE HAD EMPLOYED A SPECIALIST KARST GEOLOGIST FROM THE BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TO CARRY OUT AN INTENSIVE GEOLOGICAL MAPPING PROJECT COVERING AN AREA OF 6,000 HECTARES IN NORTH-WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES.

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TRUST FUND TO BE SET UP FOR HONG KONG SOLDIERS
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A TRUST FUND IS TO BE SET UP WITH THE AIM OF HELPING MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG MILITARY SERVICE CORPS WHEN THE CORPS IS DISBANDED BY 1997.

THE CREATION OF THE TRUST WAS ANNOUNCED BY MAJOR GENERAL PETER DUFFELL, COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, AT A DINNER FOR LEADING HONG KONG CITIZENS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE AT HMS TAMAR THIS EVENING (JUNE 8). THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WAS GUEST OF HONOUR.

GENERAL DUFFELL SAID THAT THE CHINESE SERVICE ELEMENT OF THE GARRISON HAD "UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE AND BY 1997 THOSE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS WHO HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH LOYAL SERVICE TO THE GARRISON WILL BE DISCHARGED.

"WITH THIS IN MIND, I HAVE DIRECTED THE CREATION OF A CHARITABLE TRUST, WITH THE AIM THAT THIS WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO RELIEVE DISTRESS AND HARDSHIP AMONGST FORMER MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG MILITARY SERVICE CORPS AND THE ROYAL NAVY. IT IS MY INTENTION VERY SHORTLY TO LAUNCH AN APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR THIS TRUST AND I WOULD WELCOME AND APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS MATTER."

WELCOMING SIR DAVID, WHO IS ALSO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BRITISH FORCES, AND OTHER GUESTS, GENERAL DUFFELL SAID: "WE HAVE ASKED YOU TO COME TONIGHT BECAUSE AS A GARRISON WE FEEL VERY MUCH PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY. WE SHARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS REMARKABLE TERRITORY, NOT LEAST BECAUSE 4,000 LOCAL PEOPLE, IN AND OUT OF UNIFORM, WORK WITH US.

"THE GARRISON IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO HONG KONG AND I PLACE GREAT EMPHASIS ON THE QUALITY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL ASPECTS OF HONG KONG SOCIETY. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN ALL OUR WORK AND I AM VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE ASSISTANCE WHICH THE GARRISON RECEIVES BOTH FROM THE GOVERNOR AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT."

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, GENERAL DUFFELL SAID: " THE GARRISON IS STATIONED IN THE TERRITORY PRIMARILY TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN MAINTAINING SECURITY AND STABILITY, THE INTEGRITY OF OUR LAND AND SEA BORDERS AND TO SUSTAIN CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM'S STATED COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG.

"YOU WILL KNOW THAT IN THIS RESPECT A BATTALION MANS THE SENSITIVE LAND BORDER 24 HOURS A DAY, EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR, TO CONTROL ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA. I CANNOT RECOMMEND DUTY IN THE MANGROVE OF THE MAI PO MARSHES CHASING AN ELUSIVE QUARRY AS AN ATTRACTIVE PASTIME IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER. BUT WITHOUT THIS WORK, CARRIED OUT IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR COLLEAGUES FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, THE DAILY DRIBBLE OF ILLEGAL ARRIVALS WOULD QUICKLY BECOME A FLOOD.

"THE ROYAL NAVY, TOO, PLAYS ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE IN DEMONSTRATING SOVEREIGNTY AT SEA AND SUPPORTS THE MARINE AUTHORITIES IN THE FULL RANGE OF THEIR TASKS WHICH I MIGHT SAY HAVE THEIR FAIR SHARE OF DIFFICULTY AND DANGER.

/ "THE RAF'S

"THE RAF'S HELICOPTERS GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO BRITISH FORCES, GENERALLY AND ALSO ASSIST THE CIVIL AGENCIES. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO HELP WITH THE CONTINUING PROBLEM OF THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

"OUR POLICY IS VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD - TO ASSIST THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND UNIFORMED SERVICES WITH LOGISTIC AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.

"WE HAVE ALSO GIVEN UP FACILITIES, NOT LEAST A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE AIRFIELD AT SEK KONG TO BE A VBP CAMP WITHIN 100 YARDS FROM OUR FAMILY QUARTERS. I THINK THAT AT THIS TIME THESE AREAS OF ASSISTANCE REPRESENT THE MOST APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR US TO PLAY FOR BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL REASONS.

"IN A WIDER SENSE WE ARE ALSO HERE TO SUPPORT THE POLICE IN MAINTAINING SECURITY. WE ALSO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN COPING WITH EMERGENCIES AND NATURAL DISASTERS, BOTH ON LAND AND AT SEA.

"I LIKE TO FEEL TOO THAT WE TREAT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE COMMUNITY SERIOUSLY, AS EVIDENCED BY WORK UNDERTAKEN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY. THE ANNUAL TRAILWALKER IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE. THIS LAST YEAR THE GARRISON RAISED HK\$2.5 MILLION FOR HONG KONG ASSOCIATED CHARITIES.

"AS TO THE FUTURE AND OUR WITHDRAWAL PLAN I WOULD SIMPLY SAY THIS: THAT IT IS HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO KEEP AN ADEQUATE AND ROBUST GARRISON HERE FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY, WHILE THE POLICE AND OTHER LOCAL AGENCIES ARE WORKING UP VERY SUCCESSFULLY TO TAKE OVER SOME OF OUR ROLES AS WE MOVE INTO THE 90'S. WE SHALL DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP THEM IN THIS TASK AND I DO NOT DOUBT THEY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL."

GENERAL DUFFELL ALSO REFERRED TO THE MOVE OF THE NAVAL BASIN TO STONECUTTERS ISLAND AS PART OF THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION PROJECT AND TO THE FACT THAT THE GARRISON AND ITS SUPPORT IS CONSTANTLY SUBJECT TO SCRUTINY TO ENSURE ITS COST-EFFECTIVENESS "IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG TAXPAYER".

HE SAID THAT THE GARRISON WAS ALSO BUYING AN INCREASING PROPORTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES IN HONG KONG TO THE BENEFIT OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

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COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE OFFICE COMES INTO OPERATION
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THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE SET UP UNDER THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH COMES INTO OPERATION TODAY (FRIDAY) TO REPLACE THE INSURANCE DIVISION OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

EXPLAINING THE DECISION, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT IS ESSENTIALLY A LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHEREAS THE FUNCTIONS OF THE INSURANCE DIVISION WERE OF PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION IN NATURE.

THE INSURANCE COMMISSION NOW FUNCTIONS AS A SEPARATE REGULATORY COMMISSION SIMILAR AND PARALLEL TO THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE INSURANCE DIVISION INTO THE INSURANCE COMMISSION PROVIDES A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT STAFFING ARRANGEMENT.

"THE NEW COMMISSION IS STAFFED BY A NEW PROFESSIONAL GRADE OF INSURANCE OFFICERS WHO ARE TO REPLACE THE ASSISTANT REGISTRARS IN THE INSURANCE DIVISION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CREATION OF THE NEW GRADE IS TO REFLECT MORE FULLY THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND SPECIALISATION OF THE NEW COMMISSION AND TO ENABLE IT TO RECRUIT EXPERTISE AND RETAIN STAFF OF AN APPROPRIATE CALIBRE IN TERMS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED FOR THE EFFECTIVE REGULATION OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY.

"MOST OF THE POSTS OF THE NEW INSURANCE OFFICER GRADE ARE FILLED BY THE ASSISTANT REGISTRARS IN THE INSURANCE DIVISION, WHO HAVE ACQUIRED THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE AND/OR QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE NEW POSTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE FORMER HEAD OF THE INSURANCE DIVISION IN THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, MR DEREK SULLIVAN, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE.

"HE HAS REPLACED THE REGISTRAR GENERAL AS THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY AND ASSUMED ALL THE STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS PREVIOUSLY EXERCISED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL UNDER THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"MR SULLIVAN IS ASSISTED BY TWO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS OF INSURANCE FOR THE REGULATION OF INSURANCE COMPANIES," HE SAID.

"IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT AN ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER TOGETHER WITH A NUMBER OF EXTRA STAFF MEMBERS WILL BE ADDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO ENABLE THE COMMISSION TO TAKE ON THE TASK OF THE REGULATION OF PRIVATE RETIREMENT SCHEMES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR STEPHEN IP, AND THE NEWLY-APPOINTED COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE, MR DEREK SULLIVAN, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE INSURANCE COMMISSION ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 13).

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE GIS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL, BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1990

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NEW LEVY ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PREMIA

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A COMBINED TWO PER CENT LEVY WILL BE COLLECTED FROM EACH INSURANCE PREMIUM PAYABLE BY EMPLOYERS TO COVER THEIR LIABILITY TO COMPENSATE WORKERS IN CASE OF WORK ACCIDENTS.

THE NEW LEVY WILL TAKE EFFECT ON JULY 1 (SUNDAY) UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVY (RATE OF LEVY) ORDER 1990 PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE LEVY INCLUDES THE EXISTING ONE PER CENT LEVY PAYABLE BY EMPLOYERS TO FUND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL.

THE ADDITIONAL ONE PER CENT WILL BE USED TO FUND THE PROPOSED EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME WHICH MAKES PAYMENTS TO WORKERS IN DEFAULT CASES ARISING GENERALLY OUT OF THE EMPLOYER'S FAILURE TO INSURE OR FROM THE INSURER'S INSOLVENCY.

PAYMENTS TO BE MADE UNDER THE SCHEME WILL INCLUDE BOTH STATUTORY COMPENSATION UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND COMMON LAW DAMAGES AWARDED BY THE COURT.

STARTING FROM JULY 1, INSURERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO COLLECT THE NEW LEVY AND PASS IT ON TO THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVIES MANAGEMENT BOARD WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE END OF EACH QUARTER.

THE BOARD, TO BE SET UP SHORTLY, WILL CONSIST OF REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYEES, THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

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IMPETUS FROM DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN EASTERN DISTRICT

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A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS HAVE BEEN PLANNED FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS THERE, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING AT A JOINT SEMINAR FOR THE 13 AREA COMMITTEES IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT, MR LAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PROJECTS WOULD BE RELATED TO TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS, PUBLIC HOUSING, LAND USE AND RECLAMATION - ALL OF WHICH WERE OF DIRECT CONCERN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE AREA COMMITTEES IN THE DISTRICT.

FOR TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS, A SERIES OF MAJOR PROJECTS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND NORTH POINT. NOTABLE EXAMPLES WERE THE CURRENT RECONSTRUCTION OF KING'S ROAD, THE SCHEDULED RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CAUSEWAY BAY FLYOVER, AND A PROPOSAL TO BUILD A FLYOVER AT LAU SIN STREET.

/ON LONGER-TERM

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ON LONGER-TERM LAND USE DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT, THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO READJUST THE LAND USE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CAUSEWAY BAY TYPHOON SHELTER AND THE NEIGHBOURING AREA TO TIE IN WITH THE CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION PROJECT.

IN QUARRY BAY AND SHAU KEI WAN, MR LAN CONTINUED, THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO RECONSTRUCT THE SHAU KEI WAN ROAD.

HE SAID HE WAS GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT IF THE PLAN PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY, CONSTRUCTION WORKS COULD BE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN TWO TO THREE YEARS' TIME.

OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS WOULD BE THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES ON THE LAND PROVIDED BY THE CLEARANCE OF SQUATTER AREAS IN THE SHAU KEI WAN FOOTHILLS, AS WELL AS THE ALDRICH BAY RECLAMATION PROJECT TO PROVIDE LAND FOR PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HOUSING, AND FOR OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

IN CHAI WAN, THE SIU SAI WAN RECLAMATION PROJECT WAS UNDERWAY, AS WAS THE PAMELA YOUDE HOSPITAL PROJECT. ON COMPLETION OF THE RECLAMATION PROJECT, CHAI WAN WOULD HAVE MORE LAND FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF HOUSING, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

MR LAN SAID THAT ALL THOSE PROJECTS, APART FROM BRINGING AN IMPETUS TO THE DISTRICT AND IMPROVING COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT, WOULD PROVIDE NEW CHALLENGES FOR AREA COMMITTEES.

"FOR EXAMPLE, IT HAS BEEN PROJECTED THAT THE POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT WILL HAVE INCREASED FROM 570,000 TO 600,000 BY 1995. HELPING THE NEW RESIDENTS TO ADAPT TO THE ENVIRONMENT, PROMOTING A SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT AND MOTIVATING THEM TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY-BUILDING WOULD DEPEND ON YOUR DETAILED PLANNING AND ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION.

"IN THIS CONNECTION, AREA COMMITTEES, WITH THEIR LONG HISTORY AND GOOD TRACK RECORD, CAN MAKE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS HELPING TO BUILD A BETTER AND HAPPIER COMMUNITY," HE TOLD THE AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

EARLIER, MR LAN PRAISED THE MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

HE NOTED THAT THE MEMBERS, APART FROM ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENT IN PROMOTING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, FREQUENTLY CARRIED OUT ON-THE-SPOT STUDIES AND SURVEYS IN ORDER TO PUT FORWARD TO THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS "EFFECTIVE AND PRACTICAL" VIEWS ON THE NEEDS OF THE RESIDENTS.

THE ISSUES TACKLED BY THE MEMBERS INCLUDED THE PROBLEMS OF TRAFFIC AND HAWKERS IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND NORTH POINT, THE EMISSION OF AIR POLLUTANTS BY FACTORIES IN QUARRY BAY AND THE CLEARANCE OF FOOTHILL SQUATTER AREAS IN SHAU KEI WAN.

/"IN THE

"IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR WHICH SEES BELT-TIGHTENING ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE ALLOCATION FOR THE 13 AREA COMMITTEES IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM \$130,000 TO \$180,000. THIS REPRESENTS A 30 PER CENT RISE, INDICATING THE GOVERNMENT'S HIGH APPRECIATION OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE AREA COMMITTEES," MR LAN NOTED.

THE SEMINAR IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES TO BE HELD THIS YEAR BY DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE URBAN AREA, FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF A SIMILAR SERIES HELD LAST YEAR FOR THE 1,800 MEMBERS FROM THE 90 AREA COMMITTEES IN THE TERRITORY.

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STUDENTS URGED TO HEED SAFETY IN SUMMER JOBS

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STUDENTS PLANNING TO TAKE UP SUMMER JOBS ARE URGED TO HEED INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND TO BE AWARE OF POTENTIAL WORK HAZARDS.

THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR YIP YUK-LUN, GAVE THIS ADVICE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (FRIDAY) WHEN ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF A PUBLICITY PROGRAMME ON SUMMER JOB SAFETY FOR STUDENTS.

ALSO TAKING PART IN THE CONFERENCE WAS A SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER OF THE CAREERS EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, MR LEUNG HO-WING.

"AS STUDENTS GENERALLY LACK INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AND WORKING EXPERIENCE, THEY SHOULD CHOOSE EASY AND SIMPLE JOBS," MR YIP SAID.

HE ADVISED STUDENTS TO AVOID DOING CERTAIN TYPES OF DANGEROUS JOBS SUCH AS:

- * THOSE REQUIRING THE OPERATION OF HEAVY MACHINERY, POWER-DRIVEN MACHINERY, ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND VIGOROUS MANUAL WORK;
- * THOSE INVOLVING THE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS, TOXIC SUBSTANCES OR FIRE-RELATED PROCESSES;
- * THOSE AT CONSTRUCTION SITES; AND
- * THOSE INVOLVING WORKING AT A HEIGHT.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS COMPILED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, 29 STUDENTS WERE INJURED IN SUMMER JOBS LAST YEAR, COMPARED WITH 35 IN 1988 AND 41 IN 1987.

MOST OF THE ACCIDENTS RELATED TO THE USE OF MACHINERY (18 CASES IN 1989, 21 IN 1988 AND 25 IN 1987), WHILE OTHERS INVOLVED MAINLY STEPPING ON OR STRIKING AGAINST OBJECTS, HANDLING OF HOT OR CORROSIVE SUBSTANCES AND USE OF HAND TOOLS.

/MR YIP

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MR YIP URGED STUDENTS TO CONSULT THEIR PARENTS, CAREERS TEACHERS OR THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION FOR ADVICE IF THEY HAD DOUBTS IN CHOOSING SUMMER JOBS.

"TO INSTIL IN STUDENTS THE CONCEPT OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, FACTORY INSPECTORS STARTED VISITING SECONDARY SCHOOLS LAST MONTH TO GIVE TALKS AND SHOW FILMS ON RELATED TOPICS," MR YIP SAID.

"MORE THAN 40 SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WILL BE VISITED BETWEEN NOW AND MID-JULY," HE ADDED.

"IN ADDITION, A RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE BROADCAST REGULARLY IN THE COMING MONTHS TO REMIND STUDENTS OF THE SAFETY MESSAGE," MR YIP SAID.

"A POSTER AND LEAFLETS ON WORK SAFETY AND EMPLOYMENT GUIDANCE FOR SUMMER JOB STUDENTS HAVE BEEN SENT TO SCHOOLS TO REINFORCE PUBLICITY.

"A STUDENT BOOKMARK DESIGN COMPETITION WILL ALSO BE ORGANISED IN SEPTEMBER TO SUSTAIN INTEREST IN THE PUBLICITY PROGRAMME," MR YIP ADDED.

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YOUNG PEOPLE URGED TO USE READING AND STUDY ROOMS
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YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD MAKE FULL USE OF THE READING AND STUDY ROOM SERVICE WHICH PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO ATTEND OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES IN ADDITION TO GIVING THEM A QUIET ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDY.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE REGIONAL OFFICER (EAST NEW TERRITORIES) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR CARLOS LEUNG, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL READING AND STUDY ROOM THIS AFTERNOON (FRIDAY).

"THE SWD OPERATES READING AND STUDY ROOMS IN ALL 11 GROUP WORK UNITS. IT ALSO SUBVENTS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHICH OPERATE A TOTAL OF 122 READING AND STUDY ROOMS IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES," HE SAID.

TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE USING READING AND STUDY ROOMS, SOCIAL WORKERS ALSO ORGANISED INTEREST GROUPS, SEMINARS, TUTORIAL CLASSES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES, HE POINTED OUT.

MR LEUNG SAID USERS OF READING AND STUDY ROOMS COULD ALSO LEARN ABOUT OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE POSTERS AND NEWSLETTERS ON THE NOTICE BOARDS.

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NEW POST OFFICE OPENS IN TUEN MUN
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A NEW POST OFFICE IN TUEN MUN OPENED FOR BUSINESS AT NOON TODAY (FRIDAY).

LOCATED AT NO. 106, GROUND FLOOR, LEUNG KING SHOPPING CENTRE, LEUNG KING ESTATE, THIS POST OFFICE PROVIDES THE NORMAL RANGE OF COUNTER SERVICES.

BUSINESS HOURS ARE FROM 9.30 AM TO 1 PM AND FROM 2.15 PM TO 5 PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 9.30 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAY.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 465 1360.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY THIS MORNING, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, SAID IT WAS THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUING POLICY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE POSTAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES WITHIN EASY REACH OF RESIDENTS IN ALL POPULATED AND COMMUNITY AREAS.

"THE OPENING OF THE LEUNG KING POST OFFICE IS A CASE IN POINT.

"WITH THIS IN MIND WE ARE PLANNING FOR THE OPENING OF MORE NEW POST OFFICES IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS," HE SAID.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS WERE THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAU WONG-FAT, AND DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JOHN WAN.

WITH THE OPENING OF THIS NEW OFFICE, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POST OFFICES IN HONG KONG IS NOW 115.

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OVERSTAYERS DETAINED IN ANTI-II OPERATION
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IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS LAUNCHED A LARGE-SCALE ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT OPERATION IN NORTH POINT AREA LAST NIGHT.

THEY CONDUCTED IDENTITY CHECKS ON MORE THAN 140 PERSONS AT 40 PLACES. TWO TWO-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS, A MAN AGED 32 AND A WOMAN AGED 58 FROM FUKIEN, WERE FOUND TO HAVE OVERSTAYED IN HONG KONG FOR MORE THAN FIVE MONTHS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REITERATED THAT THERE WILL BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"OVERSTAYERS WILL REMAIN ON OUR RECORDS UNTIL THEIR CASES ARE CLEARED AND ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IF INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR WHEREABOUTS COMES TO OUR ATTENTION.

"THOSE WHO BREACH THEIR CONDITION OF STAY HERE ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND, UPON CONVICTION, TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT," THE SPOKESMAN WARNED.

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REMINDER ON PAYMENT OF CROWN RENTS

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DEMAND NOTES HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR CROWN RENTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDING JUNE 24, 1990 IN RESPECT OF CROWN RENTS EXCEEDING \$100 PER ANNUM, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

PAYMENT OF THESE DEMAND NOTES MAY BE MADE BY POST ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES, P.O. BOX 8000, GPO, HONG KONG, OR, IN PERSON, AT

- * THE TREASURY CENTRAL COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG;
- * THE NORTH POINT SUB-TREASURY, ODEON BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 28 SHU KUK STREET, HONG KONG;
- * THE YAU MA TEI SUB-TREASURY, FOURTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD (MARKET STREET ENTRANCE), KOWLOON;
- * THE KOWLOON CITY SUB-TREASURY, MAN SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 348-352 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD (CORNER OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AND JUNCTION ROAD), KOWLOON; OR
- * THE DISTRICT OFFICES AT SAI KUNG, SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN, TSUEN WAN OR KWAI TSING.

CROWN RENT PAYERS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEIR DEMAND NOTES MAY BRING A CROWN RENT DEMAND NOTE OF ANY PREVIOUS PERIOD AND MAKE PAYMENT AT THE TREASURY CENTRAL COLLECTION OFFICE OR ANY OF THE THREE SUB-TREASURY OFFICES.

IF THE PAYERS CANNOT PRODUCE A CROWN RENT DEMAND NOTE FOR ANY PREVIOUS PERIOD, THEY SHOULD INQUIRE AT THE CROWN RENT UNIT OF THE TREASURY AT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), NINTH FLOOR, 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG.

NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE ABOVE CROWN RENTS MUST BE PAID BY JUNE 24 THIS YEAR.

CROWN RENT PAYERS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED A VALID DIRECT DEBIT AUTHORISATION SHOULD NOTE THAT IF THE WORDING "PAYMENT BY AUTOPAY AS AUTHORISED" IS SHOWN ON THE DEMAND NOTES, PAYMENT OF CROWN RENT WILL BE MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT TO THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS ON JUNE 24.

THEY SHOULD THEN ENSURE THAT THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS CONTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDS ON THAT DATE.

IF THE ABOVE WORDING IS NOT SHOWN ON THE DEMAND NOTES, CROWN RENT PAYERS SHOULD MAKE PAYMENTS ACCORDING TO THE PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS AS STIPULATED IN THE DEMAND NOTES.

/TO AVOID

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TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE OF QUEUEING, CROWN RENT PAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER SENT BY POST OR BY EARLY PERSONAL ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

CROWN RENT PAYERS SHOULD NOTE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- * TO AVOID LEGAL ACTION FOR RE-ENTRY OF A PROPERTY THE OWNER FOR THE TIME BEING OF THAT PROPERTY IS OBLIGED TO PAY CROWN RENT INCLUDING ANY ARREARS AS DEMANDED.
- * THE CROWN RENT PAYABLE UNDER A LEASE OF A PROPERTY WHICH HAS BEEN RENEWED UNDER THE CROWN LEASES ORDINANCE (CAP. 40) AND REDEVELOPED, WILL BE THREE PER CENT OF THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THAT PROPERTY AS ASSESSED FOLLOWING THE REDEVELOPMENT.

PENDING COMPLETION OF THE ASSESSMENT AND OTHER RELATED PROCEDURES, CROWN RENT DEMANDS WILL BE BASED UPON THE PRE-REDEVELOPMENT RATEABLE VALUE.

IN DUE COURSE, CROWN RENT FOR THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RENT BASED UPON PRE AND POST REDEVELOPMENT RATEABLE VALUES WILL BE DEMANDED AND THE OWNER FOR THE TIME BEING IS OBLIGED TO PAY THE RENT AS DEMANDED. IF HE DOES NOT, LEGAL ACTION FOR RE-ENTRY OF THE PROPERTY MAY BE INSTITUTED.

PURCHASERS OF PROPERTY ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO INSTRUCT THEIR SOLICITORS TO ENSURE THAT AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE THE CROWN RENT IS PAID UP TO DATE.

IF A PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO THE CROWN LEASES ORDINANCE AND HAS BEEN RE-DEVELOPED BUT THE RENTAL PAID UP TO THE DATE OF THE PURCHASE IS NOT BASED UPON AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY SINCE ITS REDEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATE STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE PURCHASER OR HIS SOLICITORS TO PROTECT THE PURCHASER.

ENQUIRIES ON OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS IN RESPECT OF CROWN RENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES. THE FEE IS \$45 FOR EACH ENQUIRY PER PROPERTY.

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KEEP HK CLEAN CHILDREN'S PAINTING COMPETITION ON SUNDAY
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A CHILDREN'S PAINTING COMPETITION WILL BE HELD AT THE NO. 1 FOOTBALL PITCH OF VICTORIA PARK FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SUNDAY (JUNE 10) IN SUPPORT OF THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY.

IT IS ORGANISED BY THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN FOUR AND 13.

/PARTICIPANTS CAN

PARTICIPANTS CAN JOIN THE COMPETITION ON SUNDAY FROM 9 AM TO 10 AM AT THE COMPETITION VENUE.

THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG BRUSHES, PAINTS OR OTHER MATERIAL THEY CHOOSE TO USE, WHILE PAPER WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE ORGANISER. THE PICTURE MUST BE COMPLETED ON THE SPOT BEFORE NOON.

THE WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED ATTRACTIVE PRIZES WHICH INCLUDE BOOK COUPONS, PLAGUES AND SOURVENIRS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE, MR TONG KAM-BIU, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT 4 PM ON THE SAME DAY.

THERE WILL BE A 45-MINUTE PERFORMANCE BY THE FRINGE CLUB TO ENTERTAIN THE CHILDREN STARTING AT 3 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CHILDREN'S PAINTING COMPETITION TO BE HELD AT THE NO. 1 FOOTBALL PITCH OF VICTORIA PARK ON SUNDAY (JUNE 10). THE COMPETITION WILL BE HELD FROM 9 AM TO NOON, WHILE THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 4 PM.

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REMOVAL OF PERIODIC MEDICAL RE-EXAMINATION FOR DISABLED DRIVERS

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THE REQUIREMENT FOR DISABLED DRIVERS TO ATTEND MEDICAL EXAMINATION ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS FOR CONFIRMING THEIR DISABILITIES WILL BE DISPENSED WITH UNDER AN AMENDMENT OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.

EXISTING LEGISLATION REQUIRES DISABLED DRIVERS TO OBTAIN MEDICAL CERTIFICATION EVERY THREE YEARS TO CONFIRM THAT THEIR PHYSICAL DISABILITY IS OF A PERMANENT NATURE BEFORE APPLYING FOR EXEMPTION FROM VARIOUS FEES UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

THESE INCLUDE PAYMENT OF DRIVING LICENCE FEES, ANNUAL VEHICLE LICENCE FEES OF PRIVATE CARS WITH AN ENGINE CYLINDER CAPACITY NOT EXCEEDING 1,500 CUBIC CENTIMETRES AND FEES FOR DRIVING TESTS, AND EXEMPTION UNDER THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) ORDINANCE FROM PAYMENT OF FIRST REGISTRATION TAX ON A PRIVATE CAR REGISTERED AND DRIVEN BY THEM PROVIDED THAT THE COST, INSURANCE AND FREIGHT VALUE OF THE CAR DOES NOT EXCEED \$60,000.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID A REVIEW INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO MEDICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH PERIODIC RE-EXAMINATION. IT WAS THEREFORE PROPOSED TO DISPENSE WITH THIS REQUIREMENT BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE RELEVANT ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.

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REVISION OF PARKING METER CHARGES ON HK ISLAND

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM SUNDAY (JUNE 10), THE FEES FOR USING METERED PARKING SPACES IN CENTRAL, WESTERN AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$1 TO \$2 FOR 30 MINUTES OF PARKING TIME.

THIS CHARGE REVISION PROGRAMME WILL BE INTRODUCED TO COVER THE PARKING SPACES AT BONHAM STRAND (EAST), CADOGAN STREET, CHIU KWONG STREET, EASTERN STREET, FIRST STREET, HAU WO STREET, HIGH STREET, HOLLAND STREET, KO SHING STREET, LOK KU ROAD, NEW STREET, SAI CHEUNG STREET, SHELLEY STREET, SMITHFIELD, THIRD STREET, WESTERN STREET, WHITTY STREET, HUNG SHING STREET, PING LAN STREET, SAN SHI STREET, SHEK PAI WAN ROAD AND YUE KWONG ROAD.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE IN SHA TIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT A SECTION OF ABOUT 400 METRES OF ONE TRAFFIC LANE OF SHA TIN ROAD SOUTHBOUND NEAR SHING MUN RIVER WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED BETWEEN 8 PM AND 6 AM THE NEXT DAY FROM SUNDAY (JUNE 10) TO JUNE 18.

THE ARRANGEMENT IS TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF TSING YI BRIDGE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TSING YI BRIDGE WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC ON SUNDAY (JUNE 10) FROM 12.01 AM TO 2 AM AND FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM TO FACILITATE STRUCTURAL MONITORING WORK.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE BRIDGE WILL BE RE-OPENED TO GENERAL TRAFFIC AT 10-MINUTE INTERVALS AND IMMEDIATELY FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES.

APPROPRIATE SIGNS WILL BE DISPLAYED AND POLICE OFFICERS WILL BE ON SITE TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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