



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME PROGRESS REVIEW

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS REDUCED THE TOTAL MONEY OF THE DAY (MOD) ESTIMATE FOR THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) BY \$5.5 BILLION, FROM \$163.7 BILLION TO \$158.2 BILLION.

THIS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS ON THE SEVEN GOVERNMENT ACP PROJECTS, WHICH HAVE ENABLED THE \$60.1 BILLION MONEY OF THE DAY ESTIMATES FOR THE SEVEN PROJECTS TO BE REDUCED BY \$7.6 BILLION TO \$52.5 BILLION.

SLIGHT INCREASES IN THE MOD ESTIMATES FOR THE AIRPORT AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY HAVE ALSO BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN CALCULATING THE NEW OVERALL ACP ESTIMATE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS INFORMATION HAD BEEN PASSED TODAY (MONDAY) TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE IN AN INFORMATION PAPER COVERING UPDATED COST ESTIMATES FOR THE ACP.

"THE \$7.6 BILLION REDUCTION IN MONEY OF THE DAY ON THE SEVEN GOVERNMENT PROJECTS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE MAINLY BY SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS STEMMING FROM HIGHLY COMPETITIVE TENDERING ON A VERY COST-EFFECTIVE PROGRAMME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"MANY OF THE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED BELOW BUDGET. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN REDUCTIONS IN THE LEVELS OF CONTINGENCES AND REVISIONS IN OUR CONSTRUCTION INFLATION FORECASTS."

THE GOVERNMENT HAS AWARDED 34 CONTRACTS WORTH A TOTAL OF ABOUT \$31.4 BILLION, REPRESENTING 78 PER CENT BY VALUE OF THE TOTAL GOVERNMENT ACP CONTRACTS. THEY HAVE ALL BEEN LET BELOW BUDGET AND ARE PROGRESSING WELL.

TOGETHER WITH CONTRACTS LET BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (PAA) AND THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY, THE TOTAL VALUE OF ACP CONTRACTS LET SO FAR IS ABOUT \$46.8 BILLION.

"THIS PROGRESS IS A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT ON WHAT IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMES," SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

THE PAPER SAYS THAT THE REAL COST ESTIMATES (EXPRESSED IN MARCH 1991 PRICES) FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY ARE UNCHANGED.

SLIGHT INCREASES HAVE HOWEVER BEEN NECESSARY IN THE MOD ESTIMATES. THERE IS A 3.5 PER CENT INCREASE OF \$1.6 BILLION IN THE \$48.2 BILLION ESTIMATED COSTS OF THE AIRPORT TO BE BORNE BY THE PAA, AND AN INCREASE OF 1.5 PER CENT (\$0.5 BILLION) IN THE \$33.5 BILLION ESTIMATE FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

THE \$5.5 BILLION REDUCTION IN THE NEW ACP OVERALL MOD ESTIMATE TAKES THESE INCREASES INTO ACCOUNT.

/THE SPOKESMAN .....

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE INCREASED ESTIMATES ARE MAINLY CAUSED BY SLIPPAGES WITHIN THE PROGRAMME. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE THE PAA'S SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT WAS LET WITHIN BUDGET ESTIMATES (AND IS ON SCHEDULE WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT), IT WAS LET SEVEN MONTHS LATE.

"COUPLED WITH THE CONTINUING DELAY IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON FINANCING ISSUES WITH THE CHINESE SIDE, THIS HAS INEVITABLY DELAYED THE START OF OTHER CONTRACTS TO BE LET IN THE FUTURE.

"CONSEQUENTLY, THE ESTIMATED EFFECTS OF INFLATION HAVE LED TO HIGHER COST ESTIMATES IN MOD TERMS. THESE ESTIMATES ARE BASED, FOR CALCULATION PURPOSES, ON FUNDING BEING AGREED IN FULL FOR BOTH PROJECTS THIS MONTH.

"FURTHER DELAYS IN REACHING AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE WILL LEAD TO THE RISK OF FURTHER INCREASES IN COSTS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THESE COST INCREASES COULD AMOUNT TO AT LEAST \$2 BILLION FOR EVERY SIX MONTHS OF DELAY ON THE AIRPORT, PLUS A SIMILAR AMOUNT ON THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

"THESE INCREASED COST BURDENS ARE IN ADDITION TO THE ECONOMIC DISBENEFITS TO HONG KONG OF DELAYS IN OPENING THE AIRPORT. THE DISBENEFITS HAVE BEEN ESTIMATED TO BE AT LEAST \$3 BILLION FOR THE FIRST YEAR ALONE THAT KAI TAK REMAINS OPEN FROM 1997.

"AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO DECIDE WHETHER, AND TO WHAT EXTENT, ADDITIONAL FUNDS SHOULD BE COMMITTED ON THE AIRPORT. A TOTAL OF \$14.59 BILLION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE SO FAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

POSSIBLE OPTIONS ARE DISCUSSED IN A SECOND PAPER CIRCULATED TODAY TO LEGCO AND AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS. THE PAPER REAFFIRMS THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRST PRIORITY OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE SIDE ON THE FINANCING ISSUES AND EXAMINES TWO OPTIONS, IN THE ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "ONE OPTION WOULD BE TO SEEK FUNDING FOR \$377 MILLION, WHICH IS THE MINIMUM AMOUNT NEEDED TO EXTEND THE PAA'S HEAD OFFICE FUNDING INTO 1994/95. THIS WOULD MAINTAIN THE PAA AND ENABLE IT TO CONTINUE TO SUPERVISE DESIGN AND SITE PREPARATION WORK, SO THAT CONSTRUCTION WORK COULD PROCEED AT FULL SPEED ONCE AGREEMENT IS REACHED WITH THE CHINESE SIDE.

"THE OTHER OPTION IS TO TAKE ANOTHER STEP AND SEEK FUNDING NOT JUST FOR THE PAA'S HEAD OFFICE COSTS, BUT ALSO FOR SOME IMPORTANT WORKS ITEMS. THESE ITEMS, ESTIMATED TO COST \$1.29 BILLION, COMPRISE THE DESIGN PHASE OF BAGGAGE HANDLING AND AUTOMATED PEOPLE-MOVER SYSTEMS, FOUNDATION WORKS FOR THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING, AND VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT FACILITIES.

"THE SECOND OPTION WOULD MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS COMPLETING THE PROJECT TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE BY JUNE 1997."

THESE PAPERS WILL BE DISCUSSED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON FINANCING OF THE ACP, AND THE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 13.

JUDICIARY POISED FOR A QUIET MANAGEMENT REVOLUTION

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THE JUDICIARY IS POISED FOR A QUIET MANAGEMENT REVOLUTION, AND AS PART OF THE PROCESS, WILL STRENGTHEN ITS LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY, THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1994 LEGAL YEAR, SIR TI LIANG SAID: "WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS RESPONSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE, WHERE CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT. WE WILL FOSTER THE TRIPARTITE CO-OPERATION AMONGST THE JUDICIARY, THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND THE ADMINISTRATION."

HE STRESSED THAT IN THE COURSE OF PURSUING THESE GOALS AND ACHIEVING A GREATER OPENNESS, THE JUDICIARY WILL PRESERVE THE ALL-IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE EXPLAINED WHAT WAS BEING DONE TO PAVE THE WAY FOR BRINGING INTO THE JUDICIARY A MODERN MANAGEMENT CULTURE AND TO PROMOTE JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY.

"FIRST, THE WORKING PARTY ON JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATION, WHICH I LAUNCHED LAST OCTOBER AND WHICH I PERSONALLY CHAIR, IS MAPPING OUT A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR STREAMLINING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE JUDICIARY. IT IS LAYING THE GROUND FOR REFORMS.

"SECONDLY, THE THREE COURT USERS' COMMITTEES FOR CIVIL CASES, CRIMINAL CASES, AND CASES BEFORE THE TRIBUNALS RESPECTIVELY HAVE GOT OFF TO A PROMISING START AND ARE GENERATING A NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL IDEAS.

"THIRDLY, THE EXERCISE TO RECRUIT A HIGH-RANKING JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATOR HAS PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY. WE HAVE REASON TO HOPE FOR AN EARLY APPOINTMENT.

"FINALLY, AS PART OF THE DRIVE TO PROMOTE AN AWARENESS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WITHIN THE JUDICIARY, PERSONAL COMPUTERS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED JUDICIAL OFFICERS FOR USE IN THEIR CHAMBERS, ALONG WITH BASIC COMPUTER TRAINING. THIS REPRESENTS THE CURTAIN-RAISER FOR THE WIDER APPLICATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO THE WORK OF THE JUDICIARY IN THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

SIR TI LIANG POINTED OUT THAT THE JUDICIARY'S EFFORTS TO KEEP DOWN WAITING TIMES IN COURT REQUIRED THE TRIPARTITE CO-OPERATION OF THE JUDICIARY, ALL THE LAWYERS, BE THEY IN PRIVATE PRACTICE OR IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE, AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

"WITHIN THE JUDICIARY, THE LISTING SYSTEM MUST BE ONE THAT IS FLEXIBLE AND MAKES MAXIMUM USE OF JUDGES' TIME. AMONGST THE BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS, THERE MUST BE THE SAME SENSITIVITY THAT COURT TIME IS PRECIOUS. LASTLY, THE ADMINISTRATION MUST PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES WE REQUIRE," HE SAID.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE STATED THAT TWO REMEDIAL METHODS WERE CURRENTLY BEING USED FOR THE HIGH COURT TO MAKE BETTER USE OF THE COURT'S TIME: PRE-TRIAL REVIEWS AND RUNNING LIST.

PRE-TRIAL REVIEWS IS DONE FOR ALL CRIMINAL TRIALS IN THE HIGH COURT, WITH THE AIM OF DEALING WITH ALL MATTERS WHICH MAY BE DEALT WITH BEFORE, RATHER THAN DURING TRIAL.

"IT DOES NOT SAVE A LOT OF COURT TIME IN SHORT CASES, BUT MAY SAVE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME IN A LONG TRIAL. WHETHER IT DOES SO OR NOT, OR THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT DOES, DEPENDS ON HOW FIRMLY THE JUDGE CONTROLS THE PRE-TRIAL REVIEW, WITHOUT STIFLING OR INHIBITING THE PARTIES, AND HOW WELL PREPARED THE LAWYERS ARE WHO HAVE THE CONDUCT OF THE CASE," HE NOTED.

ON RUNNING LIST, SIR TI LIANG SAID BOTH CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES THAT HAVE BEEN FIXED FOR TRIAL MAY COLLAPSE ON THE FIRST DAY. IN A CIVIL CASE THE PARTIES MAY SETTLE, AND IN A CRIMINAL CASE THE ACCUSED MAY PLEAD GUILTY.

HE ELABORATED: "THE DIFFICULTY FOR THE COURT IS THEN TO GET ANOTHER CASE PLACED IN FRONT OF THE JUDGE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

"IT SOMETIMES HAPPENS THAT THERE IS A CASE FROM THE FIXTURE LIST AVAILABLE FOR THAT DAY, WHERE THE JUDGE DUE TO TAKE THAT FIXTURE HAS A CASE THAT HAS LASTED LONGER THAN EXPECTED. THAT, HOWEVER, IS RARE.

"WE, THEREFORE, INTRODUCED INTO HONG KONG SOME YEARS AGO WHAT IS CALLED A RUNNING LIST."

THIS IS A LIST WHERE THE HEARING IS ESTIMATED TO TAKE NOT MORE THAN FIVE DAYS, AND NEITHER THE PARTIES NOR WITNESSES HAVE TO BE BROUGHT FROM OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

THESE CASES ARE CALLED ON AT VERY SHORT NOTICE WHEN A GAP APPEARS, AS A RESULT OF A FIXTURE CASE COLLAPSING.

"THIS SYSTEM ENABLES SUCH SHORT CASES, ON THE WHOLE, TO BE DEALT WITH VERY MUCH SOONER THAN THEY WOULD IF THEY HAD TO WAIT FOR A FIXED DATE TO BE AVAILABLE," HE SAID.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE EMPHASISED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THAT LIST DID DEPEND ON A HIGH LEVEL OF PREPARATION BY THE LAWYERS CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY THE SOLICITORS, AS THEY MIGHT HAVE TO FIND AVAILABLE COUNSEL AT SHORT NOTICE.

EARLIER, SIR TI LIANG ACKNOWLEDGED IN HIS SPEECH THE RETIREMENT OF A NUMBER OF EXPERIENCED JUDGES "WHOSE DEPARTURE IS A LOSS TO THE BENCH AND TO THE COMMUNITY".

THEY INCLUDED MR JUSTICE CONS, MR JUSTICE FUAD AND MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER FROM THE COURT OF APPEAL, MR JUSTICE HOOPER FROM THE HIGH COURT, AND JUDGES RATTIGAN AND SHARWOOD FROM THE DISTRICT COURT.

THE CEREMONIAL OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR ORGANISED BY THE JUDICIARY BEGAN WITH A CHURCH SERVICE AT THE ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, GARDEN ROAD, AT 4.15 PM. IT WAS FOLLOWED BY AN ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE AT SUPREME COURT.

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EXTRA 30 PLACES FOR ONE-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS  
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THE DAILY QUOTA FOR ONE-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS TO COME TO HONG KONG FROM CHINA IS BEING INCREASED FROM 75 TO 105, FOLLOWING AN AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THE QUOTA HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE 1982.

THE EXTRA 30 PLACES WILL BE ALLOCATED TO TWO CATEGORIES OF CHINESE RESIDENTS:

- \* 15 FOR WIVES AND HUSBANDS WHO HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM THEIR SPOUSES FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS AND
- \* 15 FOR HONG KONG PERMANENT RESIDENTS' OFFSPRINGS WHO WILL HAVE AUTOMATIC RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG AFTER JULY 1, 1997 UNDER THE BASIC LAW ARTICLE 24(2)(3).

"A ROUGH ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF THESE OFFSPRINGS OVER THE BORDER IS AT LEAST 75,000," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT IS PRUDENT TO BEGIN BRINGING IN THEM NOW. HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOCIAL FACILITIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COPE WITH AN INCREASE OF THAT SCALE ALL AT ONCE IN 1997.

"MOREOVER, IT WILL BE BETTER FOR THEM TO BE INTEGRATED INTO HONG KONG EARLIER."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT THERE WERE CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS OF SPLIT FAMILIES ACROSS THE BORDER.

"WAITING TIMES ARE STILL VERY LONG FOR SOME PEOPLE. THIS HAS PARTLY CONTRIBUTED TO ATTEMPTS AT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION."

THE EXTRA QUOTA WILL HELP ALLEVIATE THIS PROBLEM BY SPEEDING UP FAMILY REUNION FOR SOME PEOPLE, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE INCREASED QUOTA WOULD GENERATE EXTRA EXPENSES FOR THE GOVERNMENT, MAINLY ON THE EDUCATION SIDE.

"ADDITIONAL RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR PROVIDING SCHOOLING TO THE CHILDREN COMING UNDER THE EXTRA QUOTA WILL BE IN THE RANGE OF \$400 MILLION FOR THE FIRST FIVE YEARS, PLUS A CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OF MORE THAN \$100 MILLION."

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY PLANNED AND MADE PROVISIONS FOR THIS LEVEL OF INCREASE.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT NOT ALL HONG KONG RESIDENTS' OFFSPRINGS LIVING IN CHINA WOULD HAVE AUTOMATIC RIGHT OF ABODE AFTER 1997.

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"THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP HAS AGREED THAT THOSE ELIGIBLE UNDER BASIC LAW ARTICLE 24(2)(3) ARE ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE EITHER A FATHER OR A MOTHER BEING PERMANENT RESIDENT OF HONG KONG AT THE TIME OF THEIR BIRTH," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO RELAXATION IN HONG KONG'S ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION POLICY.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE AND WILL STILL BE REPATRIATED REGARDLESS OF THEIR CONNECTIONS WITH HONG KONG.

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STATEMENT ON BUS FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT CHINA MOTOR BUS (CMB) SUBMITTED ON JANUARY 4 AN APPLICATION FOR FARE INCREASE BY A WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF 19.1 PER CENT.

HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT BOTH KOWLOON MOTOR BUS AND CMB HAD APPLIED FOR A FARE INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN THE PROJECTED INFLATION RATE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID AS WITH ANY FARE INCREASE APPLICATION, THE PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT THE PROPOSED RATES OF INCREASE BEING SOUGHT BY THE TWO COMPANIES WAS WELL UNDERSTOOD.

HE EMPHASISED THAT INCREASES HAD TO BE FULLY JUSTIFIED AND WOULD ONLY BE APPROVED IF THE EVENTUAL LEVEL OF INCREASE WOULD BE LIMITED TO COVER UNAVOIDABLE EXPENSES AND ESSENTIAL SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL EXAMINE THE APPLICATIONS CAREFULLY IN THE LIGHT OF RISE IN THE TWO COMPANIES' OPERATING EXPENSES, SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS, INFLATION RATE AND PUBLIC ACCEPTABILITY.

"WE WILL ALSO BRIEF THE TRANSPORT PANEL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND SEEK THE ADVICE OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE BEFORE A RECOMMENDATION IS MADE TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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BILL TO SET UP HK INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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A BILL SEEKING TO SET UP THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (HKIED) AS AN AUTONOMOUS BODY WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 14).

THE NEW UNITARY INSTITUTE WILL SUBSUME THE EXISTING COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION (ILE), WHICH ARE CURRENTLY MANAGED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AS PART OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE HKIED BILL STIPULATES THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE INSTITUTE, PROVIDES FOR A COUNCIL AS ITS GOVERNING BODY AND THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ACADEMIC BOARD TO PLAN ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AND TO REGULATE ADMISSIONS AND EXAMINATIONS.

THE BILL FURTHER PROPOSES THAT THE GOVERNOR SHOULD BE THE PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF THE INSTITUTE, WHO WOULD APPOINT THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WOULD INCLUDE THE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTORS OF THE HKIED, PUBLIC OFFICERS, NOMINEES FROM THE ACADEMIC BOARD, STAFF REPRESENTATIVES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE IN COMMERCE, INDUSTRY OR THE PROFESSIONS AND THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION EITHER IN HONG KONG OR ELSEWHERE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HKIED FOLLOWED RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 5.

"THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE IS TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS," HE EXPLAINED, STRESSING THAT BETTER TRAINED AND QUALIFIED TEACHERS WERE ESSENTIAL FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

THE HKIED WILL INITIALLY FOCUS ON THE UPGRADING OF EXISTING COURSES WHILE PREPARING TO OFFER DEGREE COURSES IN SOME AREAS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE CURRENT PLAN IS FOR THE INSTITUTE TO TAKE OVER THE EXISTING COLLEGES AND THE ILE AND OFFER ITS OWN ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES IN SEPTEMBER 1994.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HKIED WILL BE AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF TEACHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR LAST JANUARY, HAD BEEN MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN SETTING UP THE INSTITUTE. IT HAS APPOINTED THE FIRST DIRECTOR AND IS RECRUITING OTHER KEY ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC STAFF.

"IT HAS GOT TO THE STAGE WHERE IT IS NECESSARY TO INCORPORATE THE NEW INSTITUTION AS A STATUTORY BODY NOW," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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AFTER-CARE SERVICES PLANNED FOR ADULT PRISONERS

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THE ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR EXTENDING AFTER-CARE SERVICES TO ADULT PRISONERS UNDER A POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION SCHEME WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT WEEK.

THIS WAS MADE KNOWN BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN TODAY (MONDAY) AS HE INSPECTED THE ANNUAL PARADE OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

MR PATTEN SAID A COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF A MODERN CORRECTIONAL SERVICE, IN ADDITION TO A SOUND PENAL SYSTEM.

WHAT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS HOW OFFENDERS ARE PREPARED FOR AND HELPED IN THEIR REINTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY UPON RELEASE, HE SAID.

TO EASE PRISON OVERCROWDING, THE GOVERNOR SAID PROVISIONAL FUNDING HAD BEEN EARMARKED FOR A PLAN TO REDEVELOP STANLEY PRISON AND EXPAND FACILITIES WITHIN THE AREA.

THE PLAN, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION AND WILL MODERNISE THIS BIGGEST MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON IN THE TERRITORY.

MR PATTEN PRAISED THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES FOR THEIR ABILITY TO MEET NEW CHALLENGES WITH WILLINGNESS AND DETERMINATION.

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SWAC CONSIDERS OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME OPTIONS

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MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) WERE TODAY (MONDAY) BRIEFED ON THE PROPOSED OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME (OPS).

A CONTRIBUTORY OPS FUNCTIONS ON THE PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVE SOCIAL INSURANCE, THAT IS, COLLECTIVE SUPPORT FOR THE AGED IN THE COMMUNITY. IT IS A SYSTEM WHICH IS PRACTISED IN MANY COUNTRIES.

MEMBERS WERE INFORMED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD EMPLOY AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE STUDY IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN SUMMER AND THE PUBLIC WOULD BE ASKED TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON ITS FINDINGS.

/SWAC CHAIRMAN, .....

SWAC CHAIRMAN, MR ERIC LI, SAID MEMBERS FULLY SUPPORTED THE PRINCIPLE AND SPIRIT OF OPS. HOWEVER, THERE WERE SOME CONCERNS OVER ITS PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS.

MR LI SAID THE PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVE SOCIAL INSURANCE WHICH REQUIRED THE MORE AFFLUENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE TO SHOULDER GREATER FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE NEEDY WAS LAUDABLE.

BUT SOME MEMBERS FELT THAT IT WAS CLEARLY FOREIGN TO THE TRADITIONAL VALUES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WHERE THE CONCEPT OF SAVING AND LOOKING AFTER THE FAMILY WAS PERVASIVE.

HE SAID MEMBERS WOULD EXPECT INITIAL RESISTANCE TO THIS LESS TRADITIONAL CONCEPT, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE GREATER EFFORTS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC.

"IT WOULD ALSO HELP IF THE GOVERNMENT COULD PROVIDE MORE SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE TO PICK WHICH IS THE BEST OF THE PROPOSED FOUR OPTIONS," MR LI SAID.

THE FOUR OPTIONS ARE:

- \* MAINTAIN THE PRESENT VOLUNTARY APPROACH;
- \* AMEND THE PROPOSED SYSTEM LISTED IN THE CONSULTATION PAPER BY INCORPORATING SOME FORM OF GUARANTEE AGAINST LOSSES;
- \* INTRODUCE A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND (CPF); AND
- \* INTRODUCE AN OLD-AGE PENSION SCHEME.

SOME MEMBERS POINTED OUT THAT WITHOUT CLEARLY DEFINING BENEFITS ELDERLY PEOPLE MIGHT STILL WISH TO MAINTAIN THEIR CHOICE, MR LI SAID.

ON THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF THE SCHEME, MR LI SAID SOME MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE POLITICAL RISK AND THE FUTURE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON THE GOVERNMENT, THE BUSINESS SECTOR AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

"SOME MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED THAT AS THE ELDERLY POPULATION GROWS ITS POLITICAL INFLUENCE WILL ALSO INCREASE, MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO RESIST ANY SUGGESTIONS OF IMPROVEMENT MADE TO THE SCHEME," HE ADDED.

THE COMMITTEE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THESE CONCERNS IN THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND IN PARTICULAR, TO DRAW LESSONS FROM OVERSEAS EXPERIENCES.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ALSO AGREED TO SWAC'S REQUEST FOR A FURTHER BRIEFING ON THE FEASIBILITY REPORT UPON ITS RELEASE.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE SETTING UP OF A WORKING GROUP ON CARE FOR THE ELDERLY WHICH HAD HELD ITS FIRST MEETING ON NOVEMBER 29 LAST YEAR.

THE WORKING GROUP WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO CONDUCT A GENERAL REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE AND TO ADVISE ON THE FORMATION OF A STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE POLICIES AND SERVICES.

IT WILL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR BY AUGUST THIS YEAR.

MEMBERS ALSO WELCOMED THE SETTING UP OF THIS LONG-AWAITED WORKING GROUP AND ASKED THE ADMINISTRATION TO THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT CONSULTING SWAC ON ANY RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THIS GROUP WHICH WOULD INVOLVE MAJOR POLICY CHANGES IN SOCIAL WELFARE.

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SWAC SUPPORTS CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE REPORT

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MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) TODAY (MONDAY) SUPPORTED ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE SERVICES REPORT.

SWAC CHAIRMAN, MR ERIC LI, SAID THE HOLISTIC APPROACH IN DELIVERING SERVICES WOULD BETTER SUIT THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AS CUSTOMERS.

"WE ALSO WELCOME THE ADMINISTRATION TO CLARIFY THAT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES EARMARKED FOR IMPROVEMENT ON CORE PROGRAMMES AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE WILL BE PROVIDED," HE SAID.

MR LI NOTED THAT MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN PROMOTING THE INTEGRATED APPROACH.

"THEY HAVE URGED FOR GREATER CAUTION AND FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE THE ADMINISTRATION AND HOPED THAT THE SCHEME WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITH THE GREATEST POSSIBLE VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION," HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID MEMBERS CONSIDERED THE CURRENT CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES WERE PROVIDING VALUABLE SERVICES.

HOWEVER, THEY RECOGNISED THE REPORT HAD SHOWN MANY WAYS FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT.

"WITHOUT HAVING CONVINCING RESULTS FROM REGULAR INDEPTH REVIEWS MEMBERS WOULD RATHER SEE SLOWER PROGRESS THAN TO FORCE THROUGH PLANNED CHANGES BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE MEANS," HE CONCLUDED.

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VESSELS MUST OBSERVE IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE RULES

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CAPTAINS OF VESSELS ARE REMINDED TO COMPLY WITH IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE PROCEDURES SET OUT IN THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

THE CAPTAIN OR OWNER OF A SHIP IS REQUIRED TO HAVE THEIR CREW MEMBERS AND PASSENGERS EXAMINED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT BEFORE THE SHIP DEPARTS FROM OR ARRIVES AT HONG KONG AT A SPECIFIED ANCHORAGE OR PLACE.

HE HAS TO FURNISH RETURNS CONTAINING THE PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS OF HIS CREW AND PASSENGERS WHO ARE DEPARTING OR ARRIVING, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE LAW ALSO PROVIDES THAT THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION MAY GRANT EXEMPTION TO ANY OR ALL OF THESE IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE PROCEDURES.

"WE HAVE NOTICED THAT THE CAPTAIN OF A LOCALLY REGISTERED SHIP HAD RUN A NUMBER OF PLEASURE TRIPS TO AN ISLAND WITHIN THE CHINESE TERRITORY WITHOUT UNDERGOING SUCH IMMIGRATION FORMALITIES AS STIPULATED UNDER THE LAW.

"OUR OFFICERS HAVE ADVISED THE CAPTAIN AND THE AGENT OF THE CRAFT OF THE PROPER PROCEDURES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE APPEALED TO CAPTAINS OF VESSELS TO OBSERVE THESE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS.

OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND UPON CONVICTION, TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$20,000.

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LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS REMINDED TO GUARD REPUTATION OF QUALITY

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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, TODAY (MONDAY) CALLED ON LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS WHO EXTENDED THEIR BASE OF OPERATION OFF-SHORE TO DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO PRESERVE HONG KONG'S REPUTATION FOR QUALITY.

SPEAKING AT THE HONG KONG TOYS COUNCIL ANNUAL DINNER, MR MILLER SAID OFF-SHORE INVESTMENT COULD BE PORTRAYED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY DEPENDING ON HOW IT WAS DONE.

ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, HE SAID THE OFF-SHORE INVESTMENT MIGHT BE DEPICTED BY SOME AS SIMPLY TURNING UNDER-DEVELOPED ECONOMIES INTO AN INDUSTRIAL BACKYARD, AS EXPORTING POLLUTION AND AS EXPLOITING CHEAP, UNTRAINED LABOUR.

HOWEVER, RAPID INDUSTRIALISATION BRINGS ITS OWN PROBLEMS, WITH OR WITHOUT FOREIGN INVESTMENT, HE OBSERVED.

/THE CAUSES .....

THE CAUSES RANGE FROM A LACK OF PROPER SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT, POOR BUILDING DESIGN, WORSE MANAGEMENT AND A POOR UNDERSTANDING BY WORKERS OF THE NEED FOR SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND PROCEDURES.

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, MR MILLER SAID THE OUTSIDE INVESTOR COULD, AND SHOULD IN HIS OWN SELF INTEREST, SET A GOOD EXAMPLE.

INDUSTRIALISTS FROM HONG KONG CARRY WITH THEIR INVESTMENT, NOT ONLY CAPITAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE, BUT ALSO MODERN BUSINESS AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, CONCEPTS OF INNOVATION AND DESIGN, PRODUCTION PLANNING, PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT, STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT, IDEAS OF PACKAGING, MARKETING AND PROMOTION.

"WE HAVE LEARNED FROM OUR OWN EXPERIENCE OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION," HE SAID.

"THE DECLINE IN ACCIDENT STATISTICS DEMONSTRATES THAT OUR INDUSTRIALISTS ARE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TO INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, HARMONIOUS LABOUR RELATIONSHIP AND BUSINESS SUCCESS."

"BEING MORE EXPERIENCED THEY CAN AND SHOULD TAKE WITH THEM THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A CLEAN AND SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT. AND IT IS IN ALL OF OUR SELF-INTEREST TO EXPORT THIS EXPERIENCE WHEN INVESTING ABROAD," HE SAID.

FIRSTLY, THE COMMERCIAL REALITY IS THAT THE SPEED AT WHICH TECHNOLOGY CAN BE ACQUIRED, MANUFACTURING PROCESSES ADAPTED AND MANAGERIAL PRACTICES ABSORBED HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY TELESCOPED.

THE MANUFACTURER WHO GOES OFF-SHORE AND THINKS THAT CHEAP LAND AND CHEAP LABOUR WILL KEEP HIM AHEAD WILL QUICKLY BE OUT PERFORMED BY THOSE WHO, FROM THE START, INVEST IN NEW TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY PROCESSES AND MANAGEMENT AND WORKER TRAINING.

SECONDLY, IF HONG KONG INVESTORS LEAD THE WAY IN THIS MANNER, THEY WILL HELP PRESERVE HONG KONG'S HARD WON REPUTATION.

IN SO DOING HE WILL HELP PREVENT ALLEGATIONS OF UNFAIR COMPETITION AND DISCOURAGE THE USE OF PROTECTIONIST TRADE SANCTIONS AGAINST THE COUNTRY IN WHICH HE HAS CHOSEN TO INVEST.

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, MR MILLER SAID THE RATIO OF RE-EXPORTS TO DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAD RISEN RAPIDLY TO ABOUT FOUR TO ONE.

THIS LEADS TO TWO IMPLICATIONS WHICH CAN BE PROBLEMATIC FOR BOTH GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS.

"AS THE PROPORTION OF RE-EXPORTS IN OUR TOTAL EXPORTS GROWS, SO THE PROPORTION FOR WHICH WE CAN CLAIM A DIRECT INTEREST IN A DISPUTE SHRINKS," HE SAID. "WE THEREFORE BECOME MORE VULNERABLE TO DISPUTES BETWEEN COUNTRIES WHOSE RE-EXPORTS WE HANDLE."

MEXICO'S ANTI-DUMPING ACTION AGAINST CHINA'S PRODUCTS IN THE MIDDLE OF 1993, AND RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MOST FAVOURED NATION STATUS CAN ILLUSTRATE THE POINT.

THE SECOND RELATES TO REPUTATION, AND HERE RESPONSIBILITY RESTS PRIMARILY WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

BUYERS AND COMPETITORS TEND TO REGARD GOODS SOURCED THROUGH HONG KONG AS BEING THE WORK OF HONG KONG ENTREPRENEURS.

ANYTHING THAT UNDERMINES THE REPUTATION OF LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS WILL BE SEIZED ON BY PROTECTIONISTS TO CONVINCING GOVERNMENTS THAT THERE IS UNFAIR COMPETITION FROM WHICH THEY DESERVE SOME FORM OF PROTECTION.

IT IS THEREFORE ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT THAT HONG KONG'S ENTREPRENEURS WHO EXTEND THEIR BASE OF OPERATION OFF-SHORE DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO PRESERVE THE REPUTATION FOR QUALITY SO PAINFULLY BUILT UP FOR HONG KONG, MR MILLER SAID.

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#### SERVICES TO PROTECT CHILDREN

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SEEKING PROPER HELP TO MAINTAIN A SECURE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT IS AN IMPORTANT ROLE OF RESPONSIBLE PARENTS, CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER (FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE), MRS KATHERINE SHIN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ZONTA CLUB OF VICTORIA, MRS SHIN SAID THE WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ABUSE, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (SWD) AND OTHER CONCERNED PARTIES WERE WORKING HARD TO IMPROVE THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

MRS SHIN STRESSED THAT THE PUBLIC WERE ENCOURAGED TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE NOT FOR PUNISHING THOSE ABUSERS BUT TO IDENTIFY THOSE WHO WERE IN NEED OF HELP.

"WHILE OFFERING PROTECTION TO CHILDREN, WE ALSO HELP THEIR PARENTS OVERCOME THEIR PROBLEMS AND STRENGTHEN THEIR FAMILY.

"WITH THE SUPPORT OFFERED, WE BELIEVE THAT EVEN THE MOST TROUBLED FAMILIES CAN IMPROVE.

HOWEVER, MRS SHIN WAS QUICK TO ADD THAT THEIR SERVICE AIMED TO SUPPLEMENT BUT NOT TO SUBSTITUTE FAMILY FUNCTIONING.

THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ABUSE WAS SET UP IN 1983 AND RECONVENED IN 1984, 1985, 1988 AND 1993 TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON MEASURES TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE.

MRS SHIN SAID THIS WORKING GROUP WAS AN ADVISORY BODY WITH THE CONCERNED PROFESSIONALS HELP IN CARRYING OUT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED MULTI-DISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION, PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING CHILD ABUSE, THE STATISTICS AND THE CHILD PROTECTION REGISTRY, LEGAL PROVISIONS, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES, AND SO ON.

UNDER THE WORKING GROUP IS A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FORUM IN TUEN MUN DISTRICT TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING AMONG PROFESSIONALS AND THE COMMUNITY.

THIS DISTRICT FORUM IS SET UP ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS. SUCH FORUM WILL BE REPLICATED IN OTHER DISTRICTS SUBJECT TO THE EVALUATION OF ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

THERE IS ALSO A CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP TO CO-ORDINATE PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES TO AROUSE PUBLIC CONCERN ON RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

VARIOUS MEANS WERE USED TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE. THESE INCLUDED POSTERS, LEAFLET/PAMPHLETS, ANNOUNCEMENT IN PUBLIC INTEREST ON TELEVISION, RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SO ON.

SHE SAID THEY WERE PREPARING A PAMPHLET ON SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO BE READY FOR DISTRIBUTION SOON.

THE FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES (FSC) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGO'S) PROVIDED SERVICES IN RELATION TO CHILD ABUSE CASES.

A SWD'S SPECIALISED UNIT, THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT (CPSU), WAS ESTABLISHED IN APRIL 1983 TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO CHILD ABUSE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES ON A TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS.

THE UNIT WORKS TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AS WELL AS PROVIDES REMEDIAL SERVICES TO VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 1993, THERE WERE 456 ACTIVE CHILD ABUSE CASES. OF WHICH, 75.2 PER CENT (THAT IS 343 CASES) WERE HANDLED BY CPSU. 11.8 PER CENT (THAT IS 54 CASES) WERE CLASSIFIED AS SEXUAL ABUSE AND 42 OF THEM WERE HANDLED BY CPSU.

THERE IS MARKED INCREASE OF 6.8 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF SEXUAL ABUSE CASES AS COMPARED TO THE 32 CASES AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 1992.

PUBLIC'S AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM AND READINESS TO REPORT SUCH CASES MIGHT BE A CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR TO SUCH AN INCREASE, SHE EXPLAINED.

LEGAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM ABUSE IS LAID DOWN IN THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE CHAPTER 213 (PCJO), AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE CHAPTER 213, WHICH HAS BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT IN NOVEMBER 1993.

THE PCJO WIDENS THE PROTECTION NET FOR CHILDREN AND JUVENILES.

THE INCLUSION OF CHILD ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE ENABLES A CHILD TO BE ASSESSED WITHOUT BEING ABRUPTLY REMOVED FROM HOME AND BE SEPARATED FROM HIS FAMILY.

WITH THE INSERTION OF THE 48-HOUR CONDITION AND THE FLEXIBILITY IN THE ARRANGEMENT OF PLACE OF DETENTION, THE CHILDREN AND JUVENILES' RIGHT AND INTEREST WOULD BE BETTER SERVED WITH THE AMENDED LEGISLATION.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND REMEDIAL SERVICES ARE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, SHE SAID THEY ALSO RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORT TO FAMILIES SO AS TO PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE AND TO RELIEVE STRESSES IN FAMILIES WHICH MAY RESULT IN CHILD ABUSE.

THE DAY NURSERY, DAY CRECHE AND OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE OFFER CHILD CARE SUPPORT TO THOSE FAMILIES IN NEED.

THE HOME HELP SERVICE AND FAMILY AIDE SERVICE ALSO OFFER SUPPORT TO THOSE CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS WHO NEED SPECIFIC HELP AT HOME.

TARGETS FOR EXPANDING THESE SERVICES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND IN THE COMING FEW YEARS, MRS SHIN SAID.

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LEGCO MEETS ON WEDNESDAY

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THE ISSUES OF RAILWAY FARE INCREASES AND SETTING UP AN INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY TO RESOLVE WAGE CLAIMS OF CIVIL SERVANTS WILL BE DEBATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY.

THE RAILWAY MOTION WILL BE MOVED BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK. THE OTHER ONE WILL BE PROPOSED BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER WILL MOVE 23 MOTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE. THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE WILL MOVE A MOTION UNDER THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS (ASSISTANCE FUND) ORDINANCE.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO ASK A TOTAL OF 20 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER THREE BILLS AT THE MEETING.

THE HONG KONG AIRPORT (CONTROL OF OBSTRUCTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATE ON IT IS DUE TO BE ADJOURNED.

DEBATES ON THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1993 AND NOISE CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WILL BE RESUMED. THEY ARE DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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WELFARE STAFF ATTEND CUSTOMERS SERVICE SEMINAR  
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SENIOR STAFF OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) ATTENDED THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF SEMINARS ON CUSTOMERS SERVICE TO LEARN HOW TO SERVE THEIR CUSTOMERS BETTER.

ADDRESSING THE GATHERING, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID THE DEPARTMENT HOPED TO EQUIP ITS STAFF MEMBERS WITH MORE SKILLS BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES ARE LAUNCHED LATER THIS YEAR.

THE FOCUS OF THE SEMINAR WAS TO ENCOURAGE STAFF TO PUT THE CUSTOMERS INTEREST FIRST AND TO LEARN FROM THE SUCCESS STORIES OF ORGANISATIONS THAT HAD EXCELLED IN THIS AREA.

"OUR AIM IS TO PUT THE CUSTOMERS FIRST AND WE SHALL START WITH A CARING IMAGE," HE SAID.

MR STRACHAN SAID HE HOPED THAT THE DEPARTMENT, WITH ITS SYMPATHETIC APPROACH, WOULD STRIVE TO HELP THOSE IN NEED MOST.

THERE WERE ALREADY TRAINING FOR STAFF ON CUSTOMERS RELATIONS AT THE DEPARTMENT'S LADY TRENCH TRAINING CENTRE.

BUT HE SAID THE STAFF SHOULD NOT BE COMPLACENT AND SHOULD LOOK FOR EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS AS WELL AS QUALITY WHEN SERVING THEIR CUSTOMERS.

"I NEED TO MOTIVATE AND ENCOURAGE YOU AS SENIOR MANAGERS TO PUT QUALITY IN DELIVERY OF SERVICE AT THE VERY TOP OF YOUR AGENDA AND TO EMPOWER YOU TO FIND YOUR OWN SOLUTIONS," HE TOLD THE STAFF IN ATTENDANCE.

MR STRACHAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S CUSTOMERS COUNTERS AND WAITING AREAS WOULD BE IMPROVED FOR THE COMFORT OF THOSE WHO CAME FORWARD TO SEEK HELP.

"FUNDING WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS WANT," HE SAID.

THE KEY SPEAKERS AT THE SEMINAR WERE MR JOHN SEALE, GENERAL MANAGER, AIRLINE SERVICES AND MISS HELEN LOK, MANAGER, MARKETING RESEARCH OF CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS LTD WHO GAVE ADVICE ON HOW TO CUT DOWN QUEUING TIME AS WELL AS BETTER CUSTOMERS SERVICE.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE  
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 66.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 388.187 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 314.409 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 53.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1994

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FRESH WATER CUT IN MONG KOK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN MONG KOK WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 12) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES BOUNDED BY SOY STREET, SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET SOUTH, DUNDAS STREET AND KWONG WA STREET.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,026
REVERSAL OF LAF	+974
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,785
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,215
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 127.4 *+0.0* 10.1.94	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.73 PCT	14 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.34	3.53
1 MONTH	2.82 PCT	17 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.09	3.71
3 MONTHS	2.99 PCT	20 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.18	3.89
6 MONTHS	3.15 PCT	23 MONTHS	2511	4.15	100.21	4.07
12 MONTHS	3.47 PCT	34 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.27	4.53
TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 14,399 MN						
CLOSED 10 JANUARY 1994						

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