



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVT REMAINS COMMITTED TO CERTAINTY AND GROWTH

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, TODAY (MONDAY) SAID THAT A SIMPLE, LOW AND PREDICTABLE TAX SYSTEM REMAINED THE GOVERNMENT'S BASIC PHILOSOPHY.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE FRENCH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, HE SAID THE LAST BUDGET HAD DEMONSTRATED UNAMBIGUOUSLY HONG KONG'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT ON THIS SCORE.

HE SAID HE HAD RESISTED CALLS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE TAX SYSTEM BECAUSE HE CONSIDERED ANY SUCH REVIEW MIGHT CREATE A SENSE OF UNCERTAINTY IN THE MINDS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND MIGHT SEND THE WRONG SIGNAL TO OVERSEAS INVESTORS.

HE ADDED THAT HE HAD ALSO PUT ON THE BACKBURNER THE CONTROVERSIAL IDEA OF INTRODUCING A SALES TAX AND HAD REITERATED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM.

"ALL THIS HELPS TO BRING MORE CERTAINTY. AND IN THE RUN-UP TO 1997, EVERYONE UNDERSTANDABLY IS LOOKING FOR CERTAINTY. AS A GOVERNMENT, WE SHOULD SEEK TO DELIVER THAT CERTAINTY WHERE POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

"LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT WE REMAIN FULLY COMMITTED TO FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS FRIENDLY TO BUSINESS AND PROSPERITY. IN A NUTSHELL, A COMMITMENT TO FREE ENTERPRISE, FREE MARKETS AND FREE TRADE," HE SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO WHAT IT COULD TO KEEP PRICES IN CHECK, MAINTAIN ITS COMMITMENT TO PROTECT THOSE AFFECTED BY RISING PRICES, ESPECIALLY THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS, AND SEEK TO HELP THE "SANDWICH CLASS".

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS YEAR'S BUDGET CONTRIBUTED A GREAT DEAL, BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY, TOWARDS MAINTAINING A FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS IN HONG KONG.

"THE SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE IS A KEY - IT WILL CLEARLY HELP BUSINESS TO BE MORE EFFICIENT," HE SAID, CITING AS AN EXAMPLE THE MAJOR ROAD TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS.

"OTHER SECTORS ALSO STAND TO GAIN. THE STOCK MARKET BENEFITS FROM THE REDUCTION IN STAMP DUTY. THE TOURIST INDUSTRY HAS BEEN GIVEN A BOOST, NOT ONLY BY THE ABOLITION OF COSMETICS DUTY, BUT ALSO BY THE INCREASED ASSISTANCE FOR THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION, AND BY THE DECISION TO PROCEED WITH AN EXTENSION TO THE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE.

"I AM HOPEFUL ALSO THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE REVIEW OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS, THERE WILL EMERGE SOME ADDITIONAL FUNDING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY TO ENABLE OUR MANUFACTURERS TO MOVE INTO HIGH-TECH PRODUCTION," HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S CONTINUING ROBUST ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE HAD BEEN BASED LARGELY ON THE CONTINUED IMPRESSIVE GROWTH OF CHINA'S ECONOMY AND THE ENTERPRISE AND ENERGY OF THE BUSINESSMEN.

"WE REMAIN BULLISH ABOUT OUR ECONOMIC PROSPECTS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. OUR GDP WILL GROW BY 5.5 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS THIS YEAR.

"BUT I NOTE THAT THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK IS EVEN MORE BULLISH IN ITS FORECAST RELEASED LAST WEEK, AND PUTS OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH THIS YEAR AT 6.1 PER CENT," HE ADDED.

AS AN ECONOMY, HONG KONG REPRESENTED 19 PER CENT OF CHINA'S GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, HE POINTED OUT.

"IF ONE LOOKS AT HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG TOGETHER, THEY CONSTITUTE SOME 29 PER CENT OF CHINA'S GNP. THESE ARE VERY TELLING AND STAGGERING FIGURES," HE SAID.

"SO, THE CURRENT POLITICAL CONTROVERSIES SHOULD NOT BLIND US TO OUR STRONG ECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS. OUR OUTLOOK IS BULLISH," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF THE EUROPEAN SINGLE MARKET, MR MACLEOD SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ASSESS ITS FULL IMPACT UNTIL IT HAD COME INTO FORCE FOR SOME TIME.

"NEVERTHELESS, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SINGLE MARKET SHOULD GIVE RISE TO AN ECONOMIC GAIN TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF OVER 170 MILLION POUND STERLING, AN ADDITIONAL GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT OF FIVE PER CENT AND TWO MILLION MORE JOBS.

"OPPORTUNITIES WILL THEREFORE HOPEFULLY ABOUND FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT FOR HONG KONG TRADERS, ALTHOUGH THESE MAY BE HAMPERED SOMEWHAT BY THE CURRENT GLOOMY STATE OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY," HE SAID.

AS THE REMOVAL OF THE INTERNAL BORDERS AND THE HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS WERE EXPECTED TO INCREASE COMPETITION AMONG EUROPEAN COMPANIES, HE HOPED THAT THIS WOULD NOT LEAD TO CALLS FOR PROTECTION AGAINST EXPORT FROM THIRD COUNTRY SUPPLIERS INCLUDING HONG KONG.

ON THE URUGUAY ROUND OF GATT TALKS, HE SAID HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN BRINGING THE ROUND TO FRUITION.

MR MACLEOD SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE RECENT STATEMENT OF THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER THAT FRANCE WAS READY TO MAKE PROPOSALS TO BREAK THE CURRENT DEADLOCK.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WOULD SEEK FAST TRACK NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY FROM CONGRESS TO ENABLE THE ROUND TO CONCLUDE BY MID-DECEMBER THIS YEAR WAS YET ANOTHER WELCOME DEVELOPMENT, HE NOTED.

CRIME FIGURES FOR LAST THREE MONTHS RELEASED

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF POLICE (CRIME), MR TSANG YAM-PUI TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID CRIME FIGURES FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1993 SHOWED AN ENCOURAGING FALL IN MOST SECTORS OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR AND THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1992.

"PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGING WAS THE DROP IN THE NUMBER OF ROBBERIES INVOLVING FIREARMS BY 38.9% AND WITH PISTOL-LIKE OBJECTS BY 50.7% OVER THE SAME QUARTER IN 1992. VEHICLE THEFT DROPPED BY 29.8% OVER THE PREVIOUS THEE MONTHS."

"THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMES REPORTED TO POLICE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 WAS 20,310. THIS WAS AN INCREASE OF 261 OR 1.3% OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992 BUT A MARKED DECREASE OF 1,791 CASES OR 8.1% COMPARED WITH THE FINAL QUARTER OF LAST YEAR."

"THE DETECTION RATE OF 45.9% COMPARED FAVOURABLY WITH THE RATE OF 43.8% OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR AND 44.2% FOR THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1992."

VIOLENT CRIME

THERE WERE 4,314 VIOLENT CRIMES REPORTED. THIS WAS A DECREASE OF 104 OR 2.4% OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992 AND A VERY DISTINCT DECREASE OF 318 OR 6.9% OVER THE LAST QUARTER OF 1992.

THE VIOLENT CRIME RATE IN THE QUARTER, I.E. THE NUMBER OF CRIMES REPORTED PER 100,000 POPULATION, WAS 73.6, WHICH REPRESENTS A DROP OF 2.9% OVER THE SAME QUARTER IN 1992 AND A DECREASE OF 7.4% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE LAST QUARTER OF 1992.

(VIOLENT CRIME INCLUDES MURDER, WOUNDING, SERIOUS ASSAULT, RAPE, INDECENT ASSAULT, CRUELTY TO CHILDREN, KIDNAPPING, BLACKMAIL, INTIMIDATION, ROBBERY AND ARSON)

SELECTED CRIMES

ROBBERY

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ROBBERIES REPORTED IN THIS QUARTER WAS 1,955 COMPARED WITH 2,199 IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992, A DROP OF 11.1%. THEY WERE MARGINALLY UP BY 0.4% OVER THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1992, WHEN 1,947 WERE RECORDED.

THERE WERE 11 ROBBERIES IN THIS QUARTER WHICH INVOLVED THE USE OF GENUINE FIREARMS; THIS COMPARES WITH 18, DOWN 38.9% IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR AND DOWN 15.4% IN THE FINAL QUATER OF 1992 WITH 13 CASES. THERE WERE 71 ROBBERIES WHERE PISTOL-LIKE OBJECTS WERE USED, MARKEDLY DOWN BY 50.7% ON THE FIRST QUATER OF 1992 WITH 144 INCIDENTS AND DOWN 11.3% ON THE FINAL QUARTER OF THE YEAR WHEN 80 WERE REPORTED.

/THE QUARTER .....

THE QUARTER SAW A MARKED DECREASE OF 76.5% IN ROBBERIES OF GOLDSMITHS AND JEWELLERY SHOPS, WITH ONLY 4 CASES RECORDED, AS AGAINST 17 IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND 8, DOWN 50% ON THE LAST QUARTER OF 1992. BANK ROBBERIES ALSO DECREASED BY 51.7%, WITH 14 CASES COMPARED WITH 29 IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND DOWN 26.3% IN THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1992 WHEN 19 CASES WERE REPORTED. THERE WERE 2 WATCH SHOP ROBBERIES IN THIS QUARTER, 2 IN THE CORRESPONDING QUARTER OF 1992 AND NIL IN THE FINAL QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

THE VICTIMS OF ROBBERIES SUFFERED PROPERTY LOSSES VALUED AT HK\$70.9 MILLION COMPARED TO HK\$118.7 MILLION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND HK\$122.6 MILLION IN THE LAST QUARTER.

#### HOMICIDE

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HOMICIDES REMAINED FAIRLY CONSTANT AT 20 COMPARED TO 17 DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992 AND 21 IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR.

#### WOUNDING AND SERIOUS ASSAULT

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THESE WERE NOTICEABLY DOWN WITH 260 CASES AS COMPARED TO 300, DOWN 13.3%, IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR AND 298, DOWN 12.8%, IN THE LAST QUARTER.

#### INDECENT ASSAULT ON FEMALE AND RAPE

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THERE WERE 20 RAPES COMPARED TO 23 IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND 30 IN THE LAST. INDECENT ASSAULTS ON FEMALES WERE 228 AS AGAINST 212 IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND 252 IN THE LAST QUARTER.

#### BLACKMAIL AND INTIMIDATION

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BLACKMAIL CASES WERE 197 COMPARED TO 209, DOWN 5.7%, IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND 238 IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1992, DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY BY 17.2%. THERE WERE 138 CRIMINAL INTIMIDATION CASES REPORTED AS AGAINST 112, UP 17.9% IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1992 AND 145, DOWN 9% IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1992.

#### BURGLARY

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3,477 BURGLARIES WERE REPORTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER AS AGAINST 3,407, UP 2.1%, IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1992 AND DOWN 1.9% COMPARED TO THE LAST QUARTER OF 1992 WITH 3,545 CASES REPORTED.

VICTIMS OF BURGLARIES SUFFERED PROPERTY LOSSES AMOUNTING TO HK\$119 MILLION AS AGAINST HK\$81.1 MILLION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND HK\$112 MILLION IN THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1992.

/MOTOR VEHICLE .....

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME  
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CRIMES INVOLVING MISSING MOTOR VEHICLES DROPPED SLIGHTLY TO 1,422, 4.9% OVER THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD, STILL AN UNACCEPTABLE LEVEL, AS AGAINST 1,496 IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR AND 2,025, DOWN 29.8%, IN THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1992. AMONG LUXURY VEHICLES, MERCEDES BENZ, B.M.W. AND TOYOTA CROWNS REMAIN THE MAIN CHOICES OF CRIMINALS.

SHOP THEFT  
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SHOP THEFT WAS UP 4.2% ON THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR WITH 1,652 COMPARED TO 1,586 IN THE CORRESPONDING QUARTER OF 1992, BUT DOWN 7% ON THE LAST QUARTER OF 1992, WHEN 1,776 CASES WERE RECORDED.

SNATCHING  
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SNATCHINGS WERE UP 25.1% ON THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 WITH 364 AS AGAINST 291 CASES ON THE SAME QUARTER OF 1992, BUT 22.4% DOWN ON THE LAST QUARTER OF 1992 WITH 469 CASES.

PICKPOCKETING  
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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED PICKPOCKETING CASES TOTALLED 245 COMPARED WITH 148 IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND 217 IN THE FINAL QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

TRIAD-RELATED CRIMES WERE MARKEDLY DOWN IN THIS QUARTER BY 18.3% WITH 890 COMPARED WITH 1,090 IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND DOWN 7.5% WITH 962 CASES IN THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1992. THESE CASES RELATED TO UNLAWFUL SOCIETIES, WOUNDINGS, SERIOUS ASSAULTS, BLACKMAIL AND INTIMIDATION.

JUVENILE AND YOUNG OFFENDERS  
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THERE WERE 1,742 JUVENILES (UNDER 16 YEARS) ARRESTED COMPARED TO 1,605 IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND 1,674 IN THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1992. 2,039 YOUNG PERSONS (16-21 YEARS) WERE ARRESTED, COMPARED WITH 1,814 IN THE CORRESPONDING QUARTER OF 1992 AND 1,926 IN THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1992 THUS SHOWING A SLIGHT INCREASE.

MR TSANG SAID "WHILST DECREASES IN VARIOUS TYPES OF CRIME ARE WELCOME, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY AND WE MUST CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE FURTHER SUCCESS, PARTICULARLY AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRIAD-RELATED OFFENCES, ORGANISED CRIMINAL ACTS, ARMED ROBBERIES AND THE THEFT OF LUXURY VEHICLES, WHICH ARE AREAS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE."

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1993

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LAB ACCEPTS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LABOUR LAWS

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LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD (LAB) MEMBERS TODAY (MONDAY) ACCEPTED A NUMBER OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LABOUR LAWS TO FURTHER PROTECT WORKERS' SAFETY AND HEALTH AND TO IMPROVE EMPLOYEES' LONG SERVICE BENEFITS.

IN ITS SECOND MEETING OF THE CURRENT SESSION CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS KATHERINE FOK, BOARD MEMBERS AGREED A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE PENALTY PROVISIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS.

UNDER THE PROPOSAL, ALL OFFENCES RELATING TO THE ORDINANCE WILL BE CLASSIFIED AS "MINOR", "SERIOUS" AND "VERY SERIOUS" DEPENDING ON THE DEGREES OF RISK AND HAZARD AS WELL AS THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES.

THE PROPOSED MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR EACH CATEGORY OF OFFENCES ARE \$10,000 FOR MINOR OFFENCES, \$50,000 FOR SERIOUS AND \$200,000 WITH OR WITHOUT IMPRISONMENT FOR VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES.

MEMBERS WILL BE FURTHER CONSULTED ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF SOME OF THE OFFENCES.

DURING THE MEETING, MEMBERS DISCUSSED A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (ASBESTOS) SPECIAL REGULATIONS WHICH STIPULATED NECESSARY SAFETY REQUIREMENTS TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF WORKERS ENGAGED IN ASBESTOS WORK.

THE MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN THE EXISTING REGULATIONS INCLUDED THE PROVISION OF EFFICIENT EXHAUST VENTILATION, PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND APPROVED RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, AND THE DUTY TO KEEP THE WORKPLACE CLEAN.

THEY WERE INFORMED THAT THE REGULATIONS ARE DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE DUE TO SOME TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.

BOARD MEMBERS WERE ADVISED THAT THANKS TO TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT, IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO CONTROL THE GENERATION OF ASBESTOS DUST AT SOURCE AND TO PREVENT ITS SPREAD BY MEANS OF ENGINEERING CONTROL MEASURES OTHER THAN BY EXHAUST VENTILATION.

MEMBERS AGREED TO AMEND THE EXISTING REGULATIONS AND TO INTRODUCE NEW PROVISIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTEMPORARY STRATEGIES SEEKING TO PREVENT ASBESTOS HAZARDS.

LAB MEMBERS ALSO DISCUSSED A PROPOSAL TO REMOVE THE 12 MONTHS' WAGE CEILING ON SEVERANCE PAYMENT AND LONG SERVICE PAYMENT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

AT PRESENT, THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE LIMITS THE SEVERANCE PAYMENT OR LONG SERVICE PAYMENT TO WHICH AN ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE IS ENTITLED TO THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF WAGES EARNED DURING THE PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE RELEVANT DATE OF DISMISSAL, OR A TOTAL OF \$180,000, WHICHEVER IS THE LESS.

/THE MEMBERS .....

THE MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED THAT THE EXISTING 12 MONTHS' WAGE CEILING AS THE MAXIMUM LIMIT OF SEVERANCE PAYMENT AND LONG SERVICE PAYMENT HAS BEEN CRITICISED AS BEING UNFAIR TO ANY EMPLOYEE WHO HAS MORE THAN 18 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH AN EMPLOYER.

TO PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF SUCH PAYMENTS, BOARD MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE CEILING OF 12 MONTHS' WAGES SHOULD BE REMOVED WHILE THE MAXIMUM LIMIT OF \$180,000 BE RETAINED.

THEY ALSO AGREED THAT THE \$180,000 MAXIMUM LIMIT SHOULD BE REVIEWED PERIODICALLY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE GENERAL WAGE MOVEMENT.

HOWEVER, BOARD MEMBERS HELD DIFFERENT VIEWS ON THE PRINCIPLE AND MANNER OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RECOGNISE THE PART OF AN EMPLOYEE'S SERVICE OVER AND ABOVE 18 YEARS ACCRUED BEFORE THE AMENDMENT COMES INTO OPERATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING THE PAYMENTS.

THE MEMBERS ALSO NOTED AN INFORMATION PAPER ON A PROPOSAL TO SIMPLIFY THE ADMINISTRATION OF PART III OF THE APPRENTICESHIP REGULATIONS UNDER THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE.

THE PROPOSAL, IF INTRODUCED, WILL ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF APPRENTICESHIP TO GIVE PERMISSION TO EMPLOYERS OF APPRENTICES TO CHANGE THEIR HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT AND OVERTIME MORE EFFICIENTLY WITHOUT THE NEED TO SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR.

BOARD MEMBERS ALSO LEARNED THAT IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED IN HANDLING A RECENT DISPUTE, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WAS CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW ON THE PROVISIONS FOR PROTECTION AGAINST ANTI-UNION DISCRIMINATION IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE.

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#### FLAT OWNERS URGED TO KEEP THEIR SLOPES SAFE

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WITH THE APPROACH OF THE WET SEASON, PRIVATE FLAT OWNERS ARE URGED TO MAKE SURE THAT THEIR SLOPES ARE BEING WELL MAINTAINED.

THE PLEA WAS MADE BY THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, DR ANDREW MALONE, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY).

"SLOPES THAT ARE NOT WELL MAINTAINED MAY BECOME UNSAFE," HE SAID.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF ITS OWN SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS, WHILE PRIVATE FLAT OWNERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS WITHIN THEIR PROPERTY," HE STRESSED.

/DR MALONE .....

DR MALONE POINTED OUT THAT MANY PRIVATE FLAT OWNERS ARE STILL NOT AWARE OF THEIR DUTY TO MAINTAIN THEIR OWN SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS, DESPITE A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OFFICE (GEO) FOLLOWING THE RAINSTORMS LAST YEAR.

"CONSULTATION HAS REVEALED THAT WHILST ACCEPTING THE NEED TO KEEP THEIR BUILDINGS IN GOOD REPAIR, MANY PRIVATE OWNERS THINK THAT 'THE GOVERNMENT' IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF ALL SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS, INCLUDING THOSE WITHIN PRIVATE PROPERTY," HE ADDED.

IN VIEW OF THIS ATTITUDE, DR MALONE CONTINUED, THE GEO WOULD MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN IN ORDER TO DRIVE HOME THE MESSAGE OF "KEEP YOUR SLOPES SAFE".

SINCE THE RAINSTORMS LAST YEAR, PUBLICITY LEAFLETS ON SLOPE MAINTENANCE HAVE BEEN SENT TO HUNDREDS OF OWNERS' CORPORATIONS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND MAJOR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANIES.

THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUAL FLAT OWNERS IN SELECTED BUILDING ADJACENT TO SLOPES HAVE BEEN SENT LEAFLETS IN A SYSTEMATIC PROGRAMME.

THE GEO HAS ALSO SENT FOLLOW-UP LETTERS URGING OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND MANAGEMENT FIRMS TO TAKE ACTION TO INSPECT AND MAINTAIN THEIR SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS EVERY YEAR.

"THE LEAFLETS EXPLAIN THAT ANNUAL INSPECTION CAN EASILY BE CARRIED OUT BY THE OWNERS THEMSELVES OR THEIR BUILDING MANAGERS.

"ANNUAL MAINTENANCE WORK REQUIRES ONLY SIMPLE JOBS, SUCH AS CLEARING BLOCKED DRAINS AND REPAIRING DAMAGED SLOPE SURFACING MATERIALS. THESE WORKS CAN BE HANDLED AT LOW COST BY GENERAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS," DR MALONE NOTED.

DR MALONE REMINDED FLAT OWNERS THAT COPIES OF THE LEAFLETS CONTAINING GUIDELINES ON MAINTENANCE OF SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST VIA THE GEO MAINTENANCE HOT-LINE (TEL 762 5165).

TURNING TO THE WORK OF THE GEO, DR MALONE SAID ABOUT \$70 MILLION WOULD BE SPENT BY THE DEPARTMENT DURING THIS FINANCIAL YEAR TO UPGRADE 67 GOVERNMENT SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS.

THE DEPARTMENT HAD UNDERTAKEN A CONTINUOUS PROGRAMME TO UPGRADE SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS IDENTIFIED BY ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS AS BEING NOT UP TO A SUFFICIENT STANDARD OF SAFETY.

SINCE 1976, ABOUT \$1 BILLION HAD BEEN SPENT ON STUDIES AND WORKS TO UPGRADE HUNDREDS OF SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS UNDER THE PROGRAMME. DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, EXPENDITURE FOR SLOPE WORKS AMOUNTED TO \$73 MILLION.

IN ADDITION TO SLOPE UPGRADING WORK INITIATED AND EXECUTED BY THE GEO, A GREAT DEAL OF SLOPE WORK IS BEING CARRIED OUT IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN ASSOCIATION WITH CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS.

DR MALONE STRESSED THAT LANDSLIP HAZARD TO SQUATTERS LIVING ON HILLSIDES REMAINED A MAJOR CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT.

"IT IS PLANNED BY MARCH 1996, ALL SQUATTERS ON GOVERNMENT LAND IN THE URBAN AREA WILL HAVE BEEN CLEARED, AND THE PROBLEM OF LANDSLIP HAZARDS TO URBAN SQUATTERS REMOVED," DR MALONE SAID.

"THE GEO IS NOW CONCENTRATING ON THE MORE VULNERABLE OF THE REMAINING SQUATTERS ON HILLSIDES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES."

WITH THE WET SEASON AROUND THE CORNER, THE GEO WOULD AGAIN OPERATE THE LANDSLIP WARNING SYSTEM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

HE ADVISED SQUATTERS TO LISTEN TO THE RADIO AND WATCH THE TELEVISION DURING RAINSTORMS, AND GO TO ONE OF THE SHELTERS PROVIDED BY DISTRICT OFFICES WHEN A LANDSLIP WARNING IS ISSUED.

BEFORE THIS WET SEASON, DR MALONE ADDED, THE DISTRICT OFFICES HAVE DISTRIBUTED TO SQUATTERS COPIES OF A LEAFLET WHICH CONTAINS SIMPLE GUIDANCE ON SLOPE SAFETY AND THE NEED FOR PRECAUTIONS DURING SEVERE RAINSTORMS.

DR MALONE POINTED OUT THAT IN TWO VERY SEVERE RAINSTORMS IN MAY AND AUGUST 1982, THERE WERE MORE THAN 300 LANDSLIPS AFFECTING SQUATTERS, AND 23 LANDSLIP FATALITIES. IN COMPARISON, THE RAINSTORM ON MAY 8 LAST YEAR CAUSED ABOUT 350 LANDSLIPS BUT WITH NO REPORTS OF SQUATTERS BEING INJURED.

"THE CLEARANCE PROGRAMME AND WORK TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF SQUATTER AREAS OVER THE LAST DECADE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO REDUCING THE NUMBER OF INJURIES."

"HOWEVER, WE WILL NOT BE CONTENT UNTIL ALL SQUATTERS LIVING ON VULNERABLE HILLSIDES HAVE BEEN REHOUSED," HE SAID.

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COMMISSION REPORT ON SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS PUBLISHED

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THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE HAS PUBLISHED ITS PROGRESS REPORT FOR 1992 (REPORT NO. 29).

DURING THE YEAR, THE COMMISSION TENDERED ADVICE ON A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF LEAVE PASSAGE AND THE ABOLITION OF SEA PASSAGES FOR OVERSEAS OFFICERS.

IT ALSO EXAMINED AND SUPPORTED PLANS FOR THE CREATION OF NEW GRADES OF INSOLVENCY OFFICER, LAND CONVEYANCING OFFICER, LAND REGISTRATION OFFICER, COMPANIES REGISTRATION OFFICER AND HAWKER CONTROL OFFICER.

/IN ADDITION, .....

IN ADDITION, THE COMMISSION REVIEWED AND TENDERED ADVICE ON THE FUTURE OF THE LIAISON OFFICER GRADE AND THE PROPOSED CREATION OF A NEW RANK OF PRINCIPAL LIAISON OFFICER.

OTHER SUBJECTS EXAMINED BY THE COMMISSION INCLUDED ACCOMMODATION ALLOWANCE, EDUCATION ALLOWANCE AND SCHOOL PASSAGE SCHEMES, AND LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS.

IT ALSO LOOKED INTO THE USE OF JOB EVALUATION IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND DETERMINED THE METHODOLOGY OF A SURVEY ON PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS SIMILAR TO THOSE UNDER MODEL SCALE 1 IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE SURVEY IS BEING CARRIED OUT ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER.

DURING THE YEAR, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION HAD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MAJOR STAFF ASSOCIATIONS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE 1991/92 PAY TREND SURVEY, THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE METHODOLOGY FOR THE 1992/93 SURVEY, AND THE WORK OF THE PAY TREND SURVEY COMMITTEE DURING 1992.

THE PROGRESS REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT \$36 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

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#### FRESH OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUND MANAGERS

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GIVEN A RESPONSIBLE AND HEALTHY FUND MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENT, RETIREMENT SCHEMES TO BE OPERATED UNDER THE OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES ORDINANCE WILL WORK TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF SCHEME MEMBERS AND FUND MANAGERS ALIKE, THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

IN ESSENCE, THE ORDINANCE, WHICH WILL COME INTO OPERATION LATER THIS YEAR, SEEKS TO PROVIDE A GREATER DEGREE OF CERTAINTY THAT RETIREMENT BENEFITS PROMISED BY EMPLOYERS WILL BE PAID TO EMPLOYEES WHEN THEY FALL DUE.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG INVESTMENT FUNDS ASSOCIATION, MR CARTLAND SAID UNDERLYING THE ORDINANCE WERE FOUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES: ASSET SEPARATION, SUFFICIENT FUNDING, INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF SCHEME ACCOUNTS AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE.

"FOR FUND MANAGERS THE ORDINANCE THUS HAS A NUMBER OF IMPLICATIONS," HE NOTED.

/"FIRSTLY, IN .....

"FIRSTLY, IN LINE WITH OUR FLEXIBLE APPROACH TOWARDS INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, THE ORDINANCE WILL ENABLE MANAGERS TO OPERATE WITH THE MINIMUM OF GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION.

"THIS WILL OBVIATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LARGE AND EXPENSIVE BUREAUCRACY, THE COST OF WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE INEVITABLY BE PASSED ON TO EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

"SECONDLY, THE ORDINANCE EMPHASISES THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE FUNDING OF SCHEMES AS WELL AS SEPARATION AND SECURITY OF SCHEME ASSETS," HE SAID.

THE APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF PENSION FUNDS ALREADY IN THE MARKET IS ESTIMATED AT HK\$80 BILLION. ALTHOUGH THE EXTENT OF UNDER-FUNDING AMONG EXISTING RETIREMENT SCHEMES IS UNKNOWN, IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN \$5 AND \$10 BILLION.

"THE TOPPING-UP REQUIREMENT, NOT TO MENTION THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SCHEMES, SHOULD THEREFORE RESULT IN MORE ASSETS BEING ABSORBED INTO THE POOL OF PENSION FUNDS, PROVIDING NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT MANAGERS AND, AT THE SAME TIME, INCREASING THE DEMAND FOR THEIR PROFESSIONAL ADVICE," MR CARTLAND SAID.

"IN OUR VIEW, THE GROWTH POTENTIAL OF PENSION FUND INVESTMENT IS VERY CONSIDERABLE. THIS WILL MEAN NEW CHALLENGES AND FRESH OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUND MANAGERS IN THE YEARS AHEAD," MR CARTLAND SAID.

"THE SUCCESS OF A SYSTEM OF MINIMAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION, SUCH AS WE ARE NOW INTRODUCING, WILL DEPEND LARGELY UPON THE ABILITY OF FUND MANAGERS TO INVEST PRUDENTLY WHILST MEETING THE REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF PENSION FUND CONTRIBUTORS," HE SAID.

AS THERE ARE STILL SEVERAL MONTHS TO GO BEFORE THE ORDINANCE COMES INTO OPERATION, MR CARTLAND ADVISED ANY FUND MANAGERS WHO MAY HAVE QUERIES OR WISH TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF ANY PARTICULAR ASPECT TO CONTACT EITHER THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE OR THE FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY BOARD MEETS

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THE CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY BOARD AT ITS FIRST MEETING TODAY (MONDAY) DECIDED TO GIVE PRIORITY IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS TO THE STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH LICENSING AND SAFETY OF PLANT OPERATORS AND THE EQUIPMENT THEY USE.

PRIORITY WILL ALSO BE GIVEN IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON HAZARDS ARISING WITH HAND-DUG CAISSONS, AND THE MOVES TOWARDS QUALITY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

THE BOARD, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, GENERALLY AGREED THAT THERE IS A NEED TO IMPROVE CONTROL AND LICENSING OF PLANT OPERATORS AS A MEASURE TO PROMOTE COMPETENCY AND SAFETY OF THEIR WORK.

IT WAS FELT THAT ANY LICENSING REQUIREMENT SHOULD BE LINKED TO AN APPROPRIATE AND SUFFICIENT INDUSTRY-WIDE TRAINING PROGRAMME TO ALLOW EXISTING PLANT OPERATORS TO ATTAIN THE REQUIRED STANDARDS.

ON THE USE OF HAND-DUG CAISSONS, AND THE HEALTH AND SAFETY PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS, MEMBERS NOTED THAT WHILE HAND-DUG CAISSONS WILL BE SELDOM USED IN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN THE FUTURE, THERE IS STILL WIDE USE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. MEMBERS WERE SUPPORTIVE OF ALTERNATIVES BEING USED WHEREVER PRACTICABLE.

THE BOARD ALSO AGREED THAT PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN IN ITS FUTURE MEETINGS TO CONSIDERATIONS OF QUALITY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A START TO WORK TOWARDS THIS GOAL IN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO EXTEND THIS PROCESS TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGHOUT THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STAGES OF THEIR WORK. THE SETTING OF QUALITY STANDARDS WILL LEAD TO BETTER SAFETY AND HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY.

THESE THREE TOPICS WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER BY THE BOARD AT ITS NEXT MEETING IN JULY.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, MR BLAKE ALSO BRIEFED MEMBERS ON MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE MONITORING OF THE PROGRESS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

THE CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY BOARD WAS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION CHANNEL ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST BETWEEN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND THE GOVERNMENT.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD INCLUDE LEGCO MEMBERS MR EDWARD HO, AND MR TAM YIU-CHUNG, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND TRAINING AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS ACADEMICS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS.

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NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SFC APPOINTED

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, UNDER AUTHORITY DELEGATED BY THE GOVERNOR, HAS APPOINTED MR VINCENT CHENG HOI-CHUEN AS A NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS FROM MAY 1, 1993 TO APRIL 30, 1995.

HE WILL REPLACE MR DENIS CHANG, WHO HAS BEEN WITH THE COMMISSION SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN MAY 1989.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS REAPPOINTED MR RODERICK CHALMERS AS A NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALSO FROM MAY 1, 1993 TO APRIL 30, 1995.

UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION ORDINANCE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT NOT FEWER THAN EIGHT DIRECTORS OF THE COMMISSION, HALF OF WHOM SHALL BE NON-EXECUTIVE.

/AT PRESENT, .....

AT PRESENT, THE COMMISSION IS SERVED BY 10 DIRECTORS.

"I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MR DENIS CHANG FOR HIS IMMENSE CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMISSION IN THE PAST FEW YEARS," THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"I AM SURE THAT MR VINCENT CHENG AND THE OTHER NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS WILL CONTINUE TO BRING AN INDEPENDENT VIEW TO THE MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION OF THE COMMISSION," MR CARTLAND SAID.

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CONTRACT FOR TAI MEI TUK PUMPING STATION SIGNED

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) AWARDED A \$95 MILLION CONTRACT FOR UPGRADING TAI MEI TUK 'A' PUMPING STATION AT PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR.

BOTH TAI MEI TUK 'A' AND 'B' PUMPING STATIONS PUMP WATER FROM THE RESERVOIR TO THE PUMPING STATIONS IN TAI PO TAU FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION TO THE MAIN TREATMENT CENTRES DURING THE CHINA WATER ANNUAL SHUTDOWN PERIOD IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

TAI PO TAU IS A FOCAL POINT IN THE TERRITORY'S RAW WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR RECEIVING BOTH CHINA WATER AND WATER FROM THE PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR DURING THE SHUTDOWN PERIOD.

TO MEET ANTICIPATED DEMAND FOR WATER IN HONG KONG, THE CAPACITY OF TAI MEI TUK 'A' PUMPING STATION MUST BE INCREASED TO MATCH THAT OF THE PUMPING STATIONS IN TAI PO TAU.

THE PRESENT CONTRACT IS ONE IN A SERIES OF CONTRACTS FOR THE CHINA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT WHICH PROVIDES FOR STAGED EXPANSION OF FACILITIES TO RECEIVE AND TRANSFER ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA AFTER 1994.

ON COMPLETION OF THE EXPANSION, THE RECEPTION AND TRANSFER CAPACITY WILL BE INCREASED FROM THE EXISTING 620 MILLION CUBIC METRES TO 1,100 MILLION CUBIC METRES A YEAR.

WORKS UNDER THIS CONTRACT INCLUDE SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE EXISTING STATION FOR INSTALLING SIX NEW PUMPSETS.

THE CONTRACTOR IS ALSO REQUIRED TO LAY 300 METRES OF TWO-METRE DIAMETER STEEL MAIN TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASED PUMPING CAPACITY.

OTHER ASSOCIATED WORKS INCLUDE EXTENSION OF THE PUMPING CONTROL HOUSE AS WELL AS INSTALLATION OF NEW CONTROL INSTRUMENTATION EQUIPMENT.

WORKS UNDER THIS CONTRACT ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE BY MID-1995.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR HU MAN-SHIU AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF AOKI CORPORATION.

THE PROJECT CONSULTANT IS BINNIE CONSULTANTS LIMITED.

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ENTRIES INVITED FOR AIDS FUNDING SCHEME 1993-94

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THE YOUTH FUNDING SCHEME ON AIDS IS NOW INVITING ENTRIES FOR THIS YEAR FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, FOLLOWING TWO YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION.

THE SCHEME IS RUN BY THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS (CEPAIDS) TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE IN ORGANISING INNOVATIVE PROJECTS ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS FOR OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY.

UNDER THE SCHEME ENTITLED "YOUTH ACTION ON AIDS 1993-94", YOUTH GROUPS EACH COMPRISING NOT LESS THAN FIVE MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT PROJECT PLANS DESIGNED TO AROUSE AWARENESS OF THE AIDS ISSUE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.

"THERE WILL BE TWO DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES THIS YEAR -- MAY 30 AND SEPTEMBER 30 -- FOR APPLICANTS' CHOICE," A SPOKESMAN FOR CEPAIDS SAID.

TOTALLY, 20 PROJECT PLANS WILL BE SELECTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN 1993.

THE MAXIMUM FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF EACH PROJECT IS \$5,000.

AMONG THE SELECTED PROJECTS, THE BEST THREE ONES WILL EACH BE AWARDED A CASH PRIZE OF \$2,000 AND AN 'OUTSTANDING AWARD' TROPHY, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

APPLICATION FORMS AND RELATED PROSPECTUS CAN NOW BE OBTAINED FROM INDIVIDUAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, OR THE SECRETARY OF THE WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH, CEPAIDS, ON TEL 835 1821 AND ON FAX 591 6127.

ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE MADE TO THE SECRETARY.

LAST YEAR, 12 YOUTH GROUPS WERE SELECTED UNDER THE SCHEME, AND FOUR FOR THE FIRST YEAR IN 1991/92.

THESE GROUPS HAD LAUNCHED A VARIETY OF CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE PROJECTS WHICH INCLUDED A DRAMA COMPETITION, GAME STALLS, STATIC DISPLAY, MOBILE EXHIBITION, KARAOKE NIGHT, VIDEO SHOW, NIGHT CAMP, QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY, QUIZ AND SEMINAR.

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FIRE PROTECTION OFFICE ON MOVE

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THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU'S SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE FOR NEW TERRITORIES SOUTH AND WEST HAS BEEN MOVED FROM KWAI CHUNG TO TSUEN WAN.

THE NEW OFFICE, LOCATED ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 38 SAI LAU KOK ROAD, CONTINUES TO SERVE RESIDENTS OF KWAI CHUNG, TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG. ITS NEW TELEPHONE IS 417 6161.

SERVICES PROVIDED INCLUDE: ADVICE ON FIRE PREVENTION MATTERS AND APPLICATION FOR VARIOUS LICENCES, SITE INSPECTIONS AFTER RECEIVING LICENCE APPLICATIONS AND HANDLING COMPLAINTS ON FIRE HAZARDS OF DANGEROUS GOODS.

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YAU TONG SOCIAL SECURITY UNIT ON MOVE

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SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S YAU TONG SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT, RENAMED AS KWUN TONG SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT, IS OPERATING FROM ITS NEW OFFICE AT TSUI PING ESTATE STARTING FROM THIS WEEK.

THE NEW ADDRESS IS UNITS 1-7, PODIUM LEVEL, TSUI LAU HOUSE, TSUI PING ESTATE, KWUN TONG. EQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 340 8552.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN TAI KOK TSUI

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TAI KOK TSUI WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 28) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES BOUNDED BY TAI KOK TSUI ROAD, ANCHOR STREET, OAK STREET AND FUK TSUN STREET.

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ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

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THE ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

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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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 51.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 302.501 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 275.163 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 47.0 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,155
REVERSAL OF LAF	+995
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+500
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,650

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 111.5 \*-0.3\* 26.4.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.59 PCT	13 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.56	3.05
1 MONTH	2.65 PCT	16 MONTHS	2408	4.375	101.53	3.20
3 MONTHS	2.72 PCT	19 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.85	3.42
6 MONTHS	2.84 PCT	22 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.98	3.64
12 MONTHS	3.00 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 14,830 MN

CLOSED 26 APRIL 1993

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