



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FURTHER DETERRENT AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO DETER ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM COMING TO HONG KONG TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT MONTH.

THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY), MAKES IT AN OFFENCE FOR ANY PERSON TO HAVE AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE UNDER THAT PERSON'S CONTROL. THE MAXIMUM PENALTY ON CONVICTION WOULD BE A FINE OF \$250,000.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW OFFENCE WAS NECESSARY TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED RECENTLY IN EFFECTING PROSECUTIONS AGAINST EMPLOYERS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, AS EXISTING LEGISLATION HAD PROVEN INADEQUATE.

"AS EVIDENCED IN SERIES OF WELL PUBLICISED CASES, THE SUB-CONTRACTING SYSTEM IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TOGETHER WITH THE EFFORTS MADE BY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND THE PEOPLE WHO HIRE THEM TO CIRCUMVENT THE LAW HAVE CREATED A LOOPHOLE, WHICH HAS BEEN LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM 40 TO ABOUT 80 A DAY AT PRESENT," HE SAID.

"THE MAIN REASONS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ARE ECONOMIC, ARISING FROM THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG, AND IT IS NECESSARY TO COUNTER THIS INDUCEMENT WITH HEAVY PENALTIES.

"THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO EMPLOYERS THAT IT WILL NO LONGER BE COST EFFECTIVE TO EMPLOY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS THE MESSAGE WILL BE THAT IF THERE IS NO WORK AVAILABLE, THERE IS NO POINT IN COMING TO HONG KONG," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR A DEFENCE IF A PERSON CONTROLLING A CONSTRUCTION SITE CAN SHOW THAT HE HAS TAKEN ALL PRACTICABLE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE NOT PRESENT ON THAT SITE.

IN LINE WITH THE NEW MEASURES COVERING CONSTRUCTION SITES, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR ALL EMPLOYERS FOUND GUILTY OF EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BE INCREASED TO THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$250,000, COMPARED WITH ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$50,000 AS AT PRESENT. PROVISION WILL ALSO BE MADE FOR A DEFENCE OF DUE DILIGENCE FOR THIS OFFENCE.

AS A FURTHER DETERRENT TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS THEMSELVES, THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR WORKING ILLEGALLY IN HONG KONG TO BE INCREASED FROM \$5,000 TO \$10,000.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT AS HONG KONG WAS SUFFERING FROM ITS HIGHEST INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN THE PAST DECADE, THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO DO WHATEVER WAS NECESSARY TO COMBAT THIS PROBLEM.

"IT FURTHER UNDERLINES THE GOVERNMENT'S REPEATED MESSAGE THAT THERE WILL BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO COME TO HONG KONG, TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON," HE ADDED.

STATEMENT ON RECRUITMENT OF CHINESE NATIONALS LIVING OVERSEAS  
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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ON WHETHER OR NOT CHINESE NATIONALS LIVING OVERSEAS WOULD BE RECRUITED TO THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN GAVE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY (TUESDAY):

"THE SCHEME IS AIMED AT RELIEVING THE SHORTAGE OF SKILLED PERSONNEL IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAUSED BY EMIGRATION. IT IS ENTIRELY UP TO PRIVATE SECTOR FIRMS WHETHER OR NOT THEY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SCHEME.

"AS FAR AS THE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED, WE HAVE NO PLAN TO RECRUIT CHINESE NATIONALS LIVING IN THE MAINLAND OR OVERSEAS. RECRUITMENT INTO THE CIVIL SERVICE IS GOVERNED BY THE LOCALISATION POLICY. VACANCIES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE ARE NORMALLY FILLED BY RECRUITMENT OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS IN HONG KONG. RECRUITMENT FROM OUTSIDE HONG KONG TAKES PLACE ONLY EXCEPTIONALLY WHERE THERE IS A SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED LOCAL CANDIDATES IN CRITICAL AREAS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE."

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT RECRUITMENT OF NON-HONG KONG RESIDENTS INTO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE WHICH HANDLES POLICY WORK IN THE GOVERNMENT, HAS CEASED SINCE 1985.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR AUGUST PUBLISHED  
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) PUBLISHED THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR AUGUST 1990.

THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) (OCT. 84 - SEP. 85 = 100) FOR AUGUST 1990 WERE 142.9 AND 142.7 RESPECTIVELY, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 9.4 PER CENT AND 9.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER AUGUST 1989. THESE RATES OF INCREASE WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE RECORDED FOR JULY 1990 (9.4 PER CENT AND 9.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY).

FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY TO AUGUST 1990, THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) BOTH INCREASED BY 9.3 PER CENT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1989.

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, THE FASTER RATES OF INCREASE IN THE CPI(A) IN AUGUST 1990 WERE RECORDED IN THE INDEXES FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION), TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES, SERVICES AND FOODSTUFFS AT 18.1 PER CENT, 14.2 PER CENT, 11.9 PER CENT AND 9.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE CORRESPONDING RATES OF INCREASE FOR THE SAME COMPONENTS IN THE CPI(B) WERE 17.7 PER CENT, 14.8 PER CENT, 11.8 PER CENT AND 9.7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THESE FOUR COMPONENTS TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT THREE QUARTERS OF THE OVERALL INCREASE IN THE CPI(A) AND ABOUT 70 PER CENT OF THE INCREASE IN THE CPI(B).

COMPARING AUGUST 1990 WITH JULY 1990, THE CPI(A) INCREASED BY 0.3 PER CENT AND THE CPI(B), BY 0.4 PER CENT, LARGELY BECAUSE OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES, HIGHER PRICES OF FRESH FRUIT AND HIGHER RENTS FOR SOME PRIVATE HOUSING UNITS.

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 1990, AT 137.3 AND 136.9 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 9.5 PER CENT AND 9.4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 1989.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED AUGUST 1990, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) BOTH INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.6 PER CENT PER MONTH.

THE CPI(A) AND THE CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1984-85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$2,000 AND \$6,499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME AND THE CPI(B) BETWEEN \$6,500 AND \$9,999 A MONTH.

CHANGES IN THE INDEXES FOR AUGUST 1990 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AS COMPARED WITH JULY 1990 AND AUGUST 1989, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100)  
CPI(A) CPI(B)

SECTION	CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
	INDEX FOR AUG. 90	% CHANGE OVER JULY 90	% CHANGE OVER AUG. 89	INDEX FOR AUG. 90	% CHANGE OVER JULY 90	% CHANGE OVER AUG. 89
FOODSTUFFS	145.2	+0.3	+9.2	147.1	+0.4	+9.7
HOUSING	133.3	+0.6	+8.9	128.7	+0.5	+9.3
FUEL AND LIGHT	104.4	+0.7	+8.9	104.3	+0.4	+8.4
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	157.5	-0.3	+18.1	158.5	-0.3	+17.7
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	145.5	-0.4	+8.0	148.6	-0.5	+8.0
DURABLE GOODS	125.9	-0.3	+3.5	124.7	-0.4	+3.3
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	138.2	+0.6	+4.5	138.3	+0.4	+5.0
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	156.3	+0.2	+14.2	155.9	+0.4	+14.8
SERVICES	159.2	+0.9	+11.9	159.6	+0.8	+11.8
ALL ITEMS	142.9	+0.3	+9.4	142.7	+0.4	+9.6

/COMPARING AUGUST .....

COMPARING AUGUST 1990 WITH JULY 1990, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 0.3 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.4 PER CENT IN CPI(B). THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO INCREASES IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH FRUIT AND IN THE CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES, WHICH MORE THAN OFFSET THE DECREASES IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY 0.6 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.5 PER CENT IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER RENTS FOR SOME PRIVATE HOUSING UNITS.

THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT INCREASED BY 0.7 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.4 PER CENT IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS AND KEROSENE WITH EFFECT FROM AUGUST 23.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR DECREASED BY 0.4 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.5 PER CENT IN CPI(B) BECAUSE OF LOWER PRICES OF MEN'S AND CHILDREN'S OUTERCLOTHING.

THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS INCREASED BY 0.6 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.4 PER CENT IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF JEWELLERY.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES INCREASED BY 0.9 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.8 PER CENT IN CPI(B), REFLECTING INCREASES IN THE CHARGES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND OUTPATIENT CLINICS AND THAT OF PRIVATE DOCTORS.

FIGURES HEREIN REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TAKEN TO MORE THAN ONE DECIMAL PLACE.

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE "CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT" FOR AUGUST 1990, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$5 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI; OR FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, CENTRAL FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 805 6403.

THE HANG SENG CPI WAS 152.1 IN AUGUST 1990, UP BY 0.6 PER CENT OVER JULY 1990 AND BY 11.3 PER CENT OVER AUGUST 1989.

THE HANG SENG CPI IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF THE 10 PER CENT OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG THAT SPENT \$10,000-24,999 A MONTH DURING THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THIS INDEX ARE INCLUDED IN THE HANG SENG CPI REPORT ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HANG SENG BANK LTD.

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TAC RECOMMENDS HK FERRY FARE RISES

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (TUESDAY) RECOMMENDED AN INCREASE IN FARES APPLIED FOR BY THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY.

IN EXAMINING THE FERRY COMPANY'S FARE RISE APPLICATION, THE COMMITTEE HAD TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE ESCALATING OPERATING COSTS, INCLUDING FUEL COST RISES, AND UNFAVOURABLE BUSINESS CONDITIONS RESULTING IN SUSTAINED PATRONAGE LOSSES ON THE COMPANY'S CROSS-HARBOUR SERVICES.

AT CURRENT FARES, THE COMPANY'S PROFITS ARE FORECAST TO DROP FROM \$44.9 MILLION IN 1989 TO \$23.5 MILLION IN 1990, WHILST A LOSS OF \$1 MILLION IS PREDICTED FOR 1991.

THE FARE RISE APPLICATION HAD BEEN ASSESSED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE FINANCIAL MONITORING UNIT OF THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH.

TAC FELT THAT THE PROPOSED FARE INCREASES WERE NECESSARY FOR THE FERRY COMPANY TO MAINTAIN ITS CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE AND TO UNDERTAKE THE IMPROVEMENTS SET OUT IN THE FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME.

TAC NOTED THAT COMMUTERS OF INNER-HARBOUR AND NEW TOWN SERVICES, INCLUDING OUTLYING ISLANDERS, ARE SUBSIDISED PRIMARILY BY WEEKEND PICNICKERS.

TAC ALSO AGREED THAT TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SHOULD LIAISE WITH THE FERRY COMPANY TO INTRODUCE WEEKEND RETURN TICKETS FOR ISLANDERS NOT USING A MONTHLY TICKET TO AVOID THE ENHANCED WEEKEND FARES.

TAC'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FARE RISES WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR A FINAL DECISION.

MEANWHILE, THE TAC WAS BRIEFED ON THE REVISED FARE SCALES FOR GREEN MINIBUS SERVICES.

IN JULY 1990, THE HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES PUBLIC MAXICAB OPERATORS GENERAL ASSOCIATION APPLIED FOR AN INCREASE IN THE GREEN MINIBUS FARE SCALES DUE TO INCREASED OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.

TAC NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO A STUDY COMPLETED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE TRADE, THE GENERAL PROFITABILITY OF THE TRADE HAD NOT IMPROVED SINCE JUNE 1989 AND THAT 93 OUT OF THE 184 ROUTES SURVEYED WERE OPERATING AT A LOSS.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN THE OPERATING COSTS AS A RESULT OF THE FUEL TAX INCREASE IMPLEMENTED EARLIER THIS YEAR AND THE RECENT FUEL PRICE RISES, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO REVISE THE MAXIMUM FARE CEILINGS FOR GMB SERVICES.

/THE REVISED .....

THE REVISED MAXIMUM FARE SCALE WILL TAKE EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 30 THIS YEAR BUT CHARGING FARES UP TO THE MAXIMUM CEILING IS NOT AUTOMATIC. EACH INDIVIDUAL OPERATOR WISHING TO INCREASE THE FARES FOR A ROUTE WILL HAVE TO APPLY FOR APPROVAL FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE TAC ALSO DISCUSSED THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST AREA PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK EFFICIENCY STUDY (APTNES) WHICH WAS AIMED AT DEVELOPING BUS NETWORKS IN A MANNER MORE SENSITIVE TO EFFICIENCY.

THE CONSULTANCY STUDY COMMISSIONED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT COVERS NORTH EAST NEW TERRITORIES, INCLUDING SHA TIN, TAI PO AND THE NORTH DISTRICT.

EXTENSIVE TRAVEL SURVEY WAS CARRIED OUT COVERING ALL PUBLIC TRANSPORT MODES SERVING THE STUDY AREA. AN ATTITUDINAL SURVEY WAS ALSO CONDUCTED TO OBTAIN THE VIEWS OF PASSENGERS ON THE QUALITY OF EXISTING SERVICES AND TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR EXPECTATIONS REGARDING THE STANDARDS AND DELIVERY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

RESPONDENTS REACTED POSITIVELY TO THE CONCEPT OF A TRUNK-FEEDER SYSTEM, UNDER WHICH PASSENGERS WITHIN AN AREA ARE COLLECTED BY SHORT FEEDER SERVICES AND CARRIED TO A CENTRAL INTERCHANGE FOR SWITCHING TO LONG-HAUL TRUNK SERVICES.

BASED ON THE SURVEY FINDINGS AND AIDED BY A COMPUTER PACKAGE, THE CONSULTANTS HAVE EXAMINED A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE NETWORK STRATEGIES FOR THE STUDY AREA.

THE TRUNK-FEEDER NETWORK WAS SEEN TO BE POTENTIALLY MORE EFFICIENT. THE AVERAGE FARE UNDER THIS SYSTEM IS ESTIMATED TO BE SIMILAR TO THAT UNDER KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY'S ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN NETWORK BUT BUS OCCUPANCY IS MUCH HIGHER, MEANING A SAVING IN COSTS.

IT ALSO REQUIRES FEWER BUSES TO MEET PEAK PASSENGERS DEMAND AND ENTAILS THE SHORTEST ROUTES, AND HAS FEWER VEHICLES ENTERING KOWLOON.

MEMBERS ENDORSED THE STUDY'S RECOMMENDATION THAT A PILOT SCHEME TESTING PUBLIC ACCEPTABILITY OF THE TRUNK-FEEDER CONCEPT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN MA ON SHAN FOR SIX MONTHS, STARTING FROM THE OPENING OF TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL.

TAC NOTED THAT KMB HAD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE APTNES STUDY AND WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS; THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION WAS ALSO IN SUPPORT OF THE STUDY'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE APTNES STUDY WOULD BE PRESENTED TO SHA TIN, TAI PO AND NORTH DISTRICT BOARDS.

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GOVT LAND SOLD FOR \$106.35M

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TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$106.35 MILLION BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT AT A PUBLIC AUCTION TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE FIRST ONE IS A 929-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT AREA 4B, SHEUNG SHUI FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES, EXCLUDING OFFENSIVE TRADE.

IT WAS BOUGHT BY GRANT RETURN INVESTMENTS LTD FOR \$10.35 MILLION WITH BIDDING OPENED AT \$7 MILLION.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 2,788 SQUARE METRES MUST BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1993.

THE OTHER LOT IS LOCATED AT AREA 11, ON MUK STREET, SHA TIN. IT WAS SOLD FOR \$96 MILLION TO GENRIGHT INVESTMENT LTD. BIDDING OPENED AT \$85 MILLION.

THE 3,250-SQUARE-METRE SITE IS FOR GODOWN PURPOSES, EXCLUDING DANGEROUS GOODS GODOWN.

THE DEVELOPER IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 18,525 SQUARE METRES BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1994.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE, WAS CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR JOHN CORRIGALL.

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HEAVY INVESTMENT IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY NECESSARY

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HONG KONG MUST CONTINUE TO INVEST HEAVILY IN STATE-OF-THE-ART INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ('IT') PRODUCTS AND SYSTEMS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ITS PIVOTAL POSITION AS AN IMPORTANT FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRE IN THE REGION.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID THIS TODAY (TUESDAY) AT THE OPENING OF CENIT ASIA '90 AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE.

HE SAID THIS SHOULD ENCOURAGE MORE MANUFACTURERS OF 'IT' PRODUCTS TO DIVERSIFY AND EXPAND PRODUCTION IN ORDER TO TAP THE RAPIDLY GROWING MARKET IN HONG KONG AND IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

"SINCE THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF 'IT' DEPENDS ON SPECIALISTS AND EXPERIENCED MANAGERS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND 'IT' EDUCATION AND TRAINING, SO THAT THERE WILL BE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SKILLED PERSONNEL IN THE AREA," MR CHAN SAID.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HAD EARLIER THIS YEAR COMMISSIONED A CONSULTANCY STUDY ON HONG KONG'S 'IT' ENVIRONMENT AND MANPOWER NEEDS.

"ON COMPARING HONG KONG'S CURRENT 'IT' ENVIRONMENT WITH THOSE OF SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN, SINGAPORE AND THAILAND, THE STUDY SHOWED THAT HONG KONG NOT ONLY HAS HIGH PER CAPITA INSTALLATIONS OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS BUT ALSO A PARTICULARLY SOPHISTICATED TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOFTWARE AND 'IT' SERVICES INDUSTRY, WHICH IS AT LEAST AS COMPETITIVE AS THOSE AMONG THE ECONOMIES INVESTIGATED.

"THE CONSULTANTS CONCLUDED THAT HONG KONG IS WELL PLACED IN TERMS OF BUILDING AND PROMOTING THE WIDER USE OF 'IT'," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID 'IT' WAS ALREADY INFLUENCING EVERY SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY.

"IT IS NOT SIMPLY APPLIED TO KEEPING TRACK OF PAST EVENTS BUT IS INCREASINGLY USED AS A TOOL TO WIN CUSTOMERS, PROVIDE MORE FLEXIBLE MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS, DELIVER QUALITY SERVICE AND DETERMINE THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, MR CHAN SAID, FACTORIES WERE RAPIDLY MECHANISING OR AUTOMATING THEIR PRODUCTION SYSTEMS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND TO IMPROVE QUALITY.

HE SAID 'IT' WAS PLAYING AN EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE SERVICE SECTOR WHICH RELIED HEAVILY ON THE RAPID FLOW AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

"TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT SERVICE AND TO REDUCE STAFF COSTS, OUR BANKING INSTITUTIONS AND RETAILERS HAVE INVESTED SUBSTANTIALLY IN COMPUTERS AND AUTOMATION.

"IN RETAIL STORES, PLASTIC MONEY IS RAPIDLY REPLACING PAPER, WHILST 'REMOTE SHOPPING' VIA HOME TERMINALS IS NO LONGER A DREAM," HE SAID.

OVER 300 COMPANIES FROM 26 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES ARE TAKING PART IN CENIT ASIA '90, DISPLAYING THEIR LEADING-EDGE 'IT' PRODUCTS. IT IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGY EVENTS EVER STAGED IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION.

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REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS TO COMMENCE IN NOVEMBER

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THE COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS UNDER THE ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE 1990 WILL COMMENCE ON NOVEMBER 2.

ALL ELECTRICAL WORKERS ENGAGED IN FIXING ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS SHOULD APPLY FOR REGISTRATION WITH THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMSD) WITHIN 18 MONTHS FROM THAT DATE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY): "THE PURPOSE OF REGISTRATION IS TO ENSURE THAT SUCH WORK IS CARRIED OUT ONLY BY QUALIFIED WORKERS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE ELECTRICAL SAFETY."

THE ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE 1990 ENACTED ON MARCH 23 THIS YEAR ALSO REQUIRED ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS TO REGISTER STARTING NOVEMBER NEXT YEAR, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"FROM MID-1992, CONSUMERS WILL BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO EMPLOY REGISTERED WORKERS OR REGISTERED CONTRACTORS FOR ELECTRICAL WORK," HE ADDED.

A LEAFLET OUTLINING THE PROCEDURES AND QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AS ELECTRICAL WORKERS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED.

COPIES OF THE LEAFLET AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT DISTRICT OFFICES, AND AT THE EMSD COLLECTION OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, 98 CAROLINE HILL ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN PERSON TO THE EMSD COLLECTION OFFICE.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT REGISTRATION CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 895 8862.

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LABOUR COMMISSIONER VISITS AIRCRAFT CATERING COMPANY

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, TODAY (TUESDAY) VISITED AN AIRCRAFT CATERING SERVICES COMPANY AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO GAIN FIRST-HAND INFORMATION OF THE LABOUR SCENE.

THE DAIRY FARM AIRCRAFT CATERING (HONG KONG) LTD, WHICH SECURES ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF HONG KONG AIRLINES' MEALS MARKET SHARE, HAS A WORKFORCE OF ABOUT 350 EMPLOYEES.

MR HAMMOND WAS RECEIVED BY THE COMPANY'S MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR MICHEL COMMEND, AND GENERAL MANAGER, MR WILSON LEE, WHO BRIEFED HIM ON THE COMPANY'S ORGANISATION AND GENERAL EMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

/HE WAS .....

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HE WAS LATER TAKEN ON A TOUR OF THE PLANT TO SEE WORKERS AT WORK.

MR HAMMOND WAS GLAD TO KNOW THAT THE COMPANY MAINTAINS A HARMONIOUS LABOUR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS AND HAS A LOW EMPLOYEE TURNOVER RATE. IT ALSO HAS TWO JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES, ONE FOR SUPERVISORY STAFF AND THE OTHER FOR GENERAL EMPLOYEES, WHICH MEET REGULARLY TO DISCUSS IMPROVEMENT IN WORKING CONDITIONS.

MR HAMMOND ALSO NOTED THAT THE COMPANY ENJOYS A GOOD SAFETY RECORD AND NO PROSECUTION HAS BEEN TAKEN OUT AGAINST IT FOR SAFETY OFFENCES IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE, THE COMPANY HAS SET UP AN INPLANT SAFETY COMMITTEE SINCE JANUARY 1988 WITH ITS OWN WRITTEN SAFETY POLICY AND CONSTITUTION.

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#### MANUFACTURERS URGED TO HELP PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU, TODAY (TUESDAY) URGED MANUFACTURERS IN THE NORTH DISTRICT TO HELP PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CLUB HOUSE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES NORTH DISTRICT MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, MR HSU ASKED THE MANUFACTURERS TO ENCOURAGE THEIR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TO ENROL AS ELECTORS.

WHILE COMMENDING THE ASSOCIATION FOR HAVING ACTIVELY PROMOTED THE DISTRICT'S INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS IN THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, HE HOPED THE MEMBERS WOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THEIR BUSINESS IN THE TERRITORY TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS A MORE PROSPEROUS HONG KONG.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS AT THE CEREMONY INCLUDED THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM HUI; NORTH DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR PANG HANG-YIN; AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG.

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HONG KONG YOUTH PROJECT WINS AWARD

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A HONG KONG YOUTH COMMUNITY PROJECT, "GREEN MOVEMENT -- ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN", HAS WON A COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SERVICE AWARD FOR 1990.

THE AWARD SCHEME, STARTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1985, IS AIMED AT FOSTERING CO-OPERATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

THIS IS THE SECOND AWARD WON BY A HONG KONG PROJECT IN SIX YEARS.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, WILL PRESENT THE AWARD TO THE WINNING TEAM, FROM THE CHEUNG WAH CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE, AT A CEREMONY TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE TEAM WILL RECEIVE A GRANT OF 1,000 POUNDS STERLING FOR FURTHERING ITS WORK. MEDALLIONS AND CERTIFICATES WILL ALSO BE AWARDED TO EACH OF THE 20 TEAM MEMBERS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SERVICE AWARD SCHEME PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT 4 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT THE CNTA CONFERENCE ROOM, 30TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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SECOND SAI KUNG ARTS FESTIVAL TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH

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RESIDENTS OF SAI KUNG AND TSEUNG KWAN O ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART IN THE SECOND SAI KUNG DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL TO BE HELD BETWEEN OCTOBER 14 AND 30.

THE FESTIVAL, A BIENNIAL EVENT IN THE DISTRICT, WILL PROVIDE A VARIETY OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES RANGING FROM AN ARTS EXPOSITION, DRAMAS, CANTONESE OPERAS, DANCING PERFORMANCE, FOLK SONG KARAOKE, POP CONCERT TO PHOTOGRAPHIC AND PAINTING EXHIBITIONS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, MR GEORGE NG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE FIRST ARTS FESTIVAL IN SAI KUNG, HELD IN 1988, WAS WELL RECEIVED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS.

/"THE OBJECTIVES .....

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"THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FESTIVAL ARE TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF ART APPRECIATION AMONG LOCAL PEOPLE, ENCOURAGE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND FOSTER A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY THE NEWCOMERS TO TSEUNG KWAN O NEW TOWN," HE ADDED.

AT THE ARTS EXPOSITION TO BE HELD AT PO LAM SUNKEN PLAZA ON OCTOBER 14, THERE WILL BE A STREET THEATRE, BRASS QUINTET, MODERN DANCE, KUNG FU, ACROBATICS, MIME AND HANDICRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS.

ADMISSION IS FREE FOR MOST OF THE FESTIVAL'S ACTIVITIES.

THE COST OF THE FESTIVAL IS ESTIMATED AT \$700,000, WITH \$360,000 FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE REST FROM DONATIONS BY LOCAL DIGNITARIES.

ADMISSION TICKETS AND PROGRAMME LEAFLETS ARE OBTAINABLE AT THE TSEUNG KWAN O SUB-OFFICE OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE AND TSUE LAN COMMUNITY HALL.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO MISS LAI SIU-FAN ON TEL. 791 0016.

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SLOGAN AND CARTOON DRAWING COMPETITIONS IN MONG KOK

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A SLOGAN AND A CARTOON DRAWING COMPETITION ON CIVIC RIGHTS ARE NOW OPEN TO RESIDENTS IN MONG KOK DISTRICT.

THE COMPETITIONS ARE PART OF THE CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO ENHANCE RESIDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF CIVIC RIGHTS AND THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE COMMUNITY. THEY ARE SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE COMPETITIONS ARE DIVIDED INTO OPEN AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS SECTIONS.

THE SLOGANS OR CARTOONS SHOULD BE ON THE THEME OF ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO SIGN UP AS ELECTORS AND TO VOTE IN THE 1991 ELECTIONS.

THE ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT TO THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE AT 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, GROUND FLOOR, OR TO ITS TAI KOK TSUI SUB-OFFICE ON GROUND FLOOR, 45 TIT SHU STREET BEFORE OCTOBER 23.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 787 0775.

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SEPT SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STARTED  
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS STARTED TO CONDUCT THE SEPTEMBER 1990 ROUND OF THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN RESPECT OF THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990.

THIS SURVEY IS CONDUCTED QUARTERLY AND THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE USEFUL IN PROVIDING SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET IN HONG KONG.

THIS ROUND OF THE SURVEY COVERS ABOUT 36,000 ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH ARE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS INCLUDING THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (MINING AND QUARRYING; MANUFACTURING; ELECTRICITY AND GAS), THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES SECTOR (WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS) AND THE SERVICES SECTOR (TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION; FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES; COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES).

INFORMATION ON NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1990 WILL BE SOUGHT FROM EACH SELECTED ESTABLISHMENT.

SOME 10,000 ESTABLISHMENTS ARE RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THIS SAMPLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAYROLL IN EACH OF THE THREE MONTHS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD OF JULY-SEPTEMBER 1990.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE BEING MAILED TO INDIVIDUAL SAMPLE ESTABLISHMENTS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER 1982 GAZETTED ON MARCH 5, 1982, ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVING QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

SHOULD RESPONDENTS FIND DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING THE FORMS, THEY ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE ON TEL. 823 5076.

AS FOR THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS KNOWN TO THIS DEPARTMENT DURING JULY-SEPTEMBER 1990, THEY WILL ALSO BE ENUMERATED IN ORDER TO MAKE THE SURVEY RESULTS COMPLETE.

FIELD OFFICERS OF THIS DEPARTMENT, EACH BEARING A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD, WILL CALL ON THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO SOLICIT INFORMATION ON NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED, EXISTING VACANCIES, TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, NATURE OF BUSINESS AND DATE ON WHICH BUSINESS COMMENCED.

IN CASE OF ANY ENQUIRIES REGARDING THESE FIELD VISITS, PLEASE CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE ON TEL. 823 4770.

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WALLED CITY CLEARANCE OFFICES ON MOVE  
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THE SPECIAL DUTIES OFFICES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY CLEARANCE WILL MOVE FROM BLOCK 17, LOK FU ESTATE TO TWO COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN AUSTIN AVENUE, TSIM SHA TSUI ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 1).

THE LOCATIONS OF THE NEW PREMISES ARE:

- \* THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION,  
SPECIAL DUTIES DIVISION,  
14TH FLOOR,  
SWIRE AND MACLAINE HOUSE,  
19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE.  
(TEL. 724 0809)
- \* THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT,  
SPECIAL DUTIES OFFICE,  
SECOND AND 10TH TO 12TH FLOORS,  
SWIRE AND MACLAINE HOUSE.  
(TEL. 724 0757)
- \* REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,  
LAND OFFICE, KOWLOON WALLED CITY CLEARANCE,  
SECOND FLOOR,  
SWIRE AND MACLAINE HOUSE.  
(TEL. 724 0081)
- \* THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT,  
SPECIAL DUTIES OFFICE,  
SEVENTH, 13TH, AND 14TH FLOORS,  
AUSTIN PLACE,  
7-9 AUSTIN AVENUE.  
(TEL. 724 0984)

THE OFFICES WILL BE OPEN FROM 8.30 AM TO 5 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAYS.

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