



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1993

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FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1993

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GOVERNOR ON VISIT TO BRUSSELS AND LONDON

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED FURTHER DETAILS OF THE VISIT TO BRUSSELS AND LONDON FROM MARCH 31 TO APRIL 17 BY THE GOVERNOR, THE HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN.

THIS WILL BE MR PATTEN'S FIRST VISIT TO BRUSSELS AS GOVERNOR. WHILE THERE ON APRIL 1 AND 2, HE WILL MEET THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, MR EGON KLEPSCH; THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, MR WILLY CLAES AND SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, MR JACQUES DELORS.

DURING HIS STAY IN BRUSSELS, MR PATTEN WILL ALSO GIVE A SPEECH ENTITLED "HONG KONG: ONWARDS TO 1997 .... AND BEYOND" TO THE CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID MR PATTEN WOULD USE THE VISIT TO FURTHER HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC AND TRADE INTERESTS IN THE COMMUNITY AND TO BRIEF IMPORTANT FIGURES AND ORGANISATIONS ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG.

MR PATTEN WILL FLY TO LONDON ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 2. THERE HE WILL HAVE MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND OFFICIALS OF THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE.

HE WILL ALSO DELIVER SPEECHES TO THE ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (CHATHAM HOUSE) AND THE TORY REFORM GROUP.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM LEG OF THE VISIT WAS PART OF MR PATTEN'S REGULAR PROGRAMME OF VISITS TO LONDON TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH MR JOHN MAJOR, MR DOUGLAS HURD AND OTHER MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH HONG KONG POLICY.

MR PATTEN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY, MR BOWEN LEUNG; THE INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR, MR MIKE HANSON; AND HIS PERSONAL ADVISER, MR EDWARD LLEWELLYN.

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\$17 BILLION MORE ON NEW TOWNS DEVELOPMENTS

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE SPENDING \$17 BILLION MORE ON HONG KONG'S NEW TOWNS PROGRAMME IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS TO BUILD MORE HOMES FOR ITS PEOPLES.

CITING TUNG CHUNG AS THE NEXT NEW TOWN ON THE DRAWING BOARD, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I AM COMMITTED TO THIS INVESTMENT BECAUSE IT IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY AND AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE."

MR PATTEN SAID THIS WHEN HE OPENED THE TIN SHUI WAI NEW TOWN, THE NEWEST IN THE NEW TOWNS PROGRAMME WHICH IS CELEBRATING ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR.

"OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES, THIS NEW TOWNS PROGRAMME HAS TRANSFORMED THE NEW TERRITORIES," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

/"BY SPENDING .....

"BY SPENDING THE EQUIVALENT OF \$100 BILLION, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAVE PUT ROOFS OVER THE HEADS OF 2.5 MILLION PEOPLE.

"AND WE, IN GOVERNMENT, HAVE ALSO BUILT THE SCHOOLS, THE MARKETS, THE ROADS, THE SHOPS AND THE CLINICS THAT ALL THESE PEOPLE AND FAMILIES NEED.

"ALL OF THESE ADD UP, NOT ONLY TO EIGHT NEW TOWNS, BUT TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE."

ON THE TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE THAT AS RECENTLY AS 1989, THERE WERE STILL FISH PONDS AND DUCK FARMS HERE.

"THE CHANGE OVER IN THESE FOUR YEARS HAS BEEN DRAMATIC, BUT WORK IS STILL GOING ON.

"IN 1997, WITH AN IMPRESSIVE INVESTMENT OF \$10 BILLION SHARED BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNER, WE WILL HAVE PUT IN PLACE NEW ROADS, SPORTS HALLS, GARDENS, SHOPPING CENTRES, A WATER SUPPLY AND A LIGHT-RAIL SYSTEM.

"AS A RESULT, 135,000 PEOPLE WILL BE PROUD TO CALL TIN SHUI WAI THEIR HOME."

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, SAID TIN SHUI WAI WAS UNIQUE AMONG HONG KONG'S NEW TOWNS FOR BEING A JOINT INITIATIVE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

"THE TOWN STANDS AS A FITTING TESTIMONY TO THE SUCCESS OF THAT COMBINATION AND ALL INVOLVED MUST BE PROUD INDEED OF THIS FINE EXAMPLE OF TRANSFORMATION FROM RURAL SETTING TO NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

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GOVT KEEPS OPEN MIND ON SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID HE HAD A VERY OPEN MIND ON THE MEANS TO IMPLEMENT THE SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING SCHEME PROPOSED IN HIS BUDGET.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER MEETING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATS ON THE BUDGET THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING, HE SAID HE FOUND THE REACTIONS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS TO THIS SCHEME USEFUL.

"MY AIM IS TO GET SOME RELIEF TO SOME OF THE SANDWICH CLASS FAMILIES FAIRLY QUICKLY. I'VE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO EARMARK \$2 BILLION FOR THAT PURPOSE.

"I AM ENTIRELY OPEN TO IDEAS ABOUT THE BEST WAY OF USING THAT MONEY," HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE SUGGESTIONS MADE BY LEGCO MEMBERS, INCLUDING THAT OF AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO LOOK AT THE SUGGESTIONS MADE VERY CAREFULLY AND HE WAS NOT ARRIVING AT CONCLUSIONS.

"BUT I AM CERTAINLY SIGNALLING THAT WE SHOULD LOOK WITH OPEN MINDS AT IDEAS - IDEAS IN LEGCO AND IDEAS OUTSIDE LEGCO," HE ADDED.

ON THE BUDGET AS A WHOLE, MR MACLEOD SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE BUDGET BOTH IN LEGCO DURING THE LAST TWO DAYS AND BY THE WIDER PUBLIC.

HE SAID HE SHARED SOME OF THE CONCERNS MENTIONED AND ACCEPTED THAT INFLATION WAS A PROBLEM.

"I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT WE DO NOT PRETEND IT IS AN EASY PROBLEM TO SOLVE. EVERYONE ACCEPTS THAT IT IS NOT EASY BUT WE MUST KEEP TRYING. THAT WAS VERY MUCH THE MESSAGE I TRIED TO GET OVER IN THE BUDGET," HE SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN VERY GOOD RECOGNITION OF THE WAY IN WHICH HE TRIED TO BALANCE ON THE ONE HAND MEASURES WHICH IMPROVE SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE LIVELIHOOD OF ORDINARY PEOPLE AND ON THE OTHER HAND THE INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH PRODUCES FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

ON THE QUESTION OF DEFICIT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID IT HAD BECOME GENERALLY FAIRLY WELL-ACCEPTED THAT A DEFICIT WAS SIMPLY A MEANS OF DRAWING ON THE RESERVES WHICH HAD BECOME RATHER LARGER THAN THE GOVERNMENT HAD EXPECTED.

"IT IS JUST A SIMPLE ACCOUNTING MATTER," HE SAID.

RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ON MORTGAGE CEILING, HE SAID:

"AT THE MOMENT, WE THINK 70 PER CENT IS A PERFECTLY SENSIBLE RULE."

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD KEEP THE FIGURE UNDER REVIEW.

"WE GET FIGURES ON FLAT PRICES AND THE NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS EVERY MONTH AND WE LOOK AT THESE AND WE ARE QUITE HAPPY TO DISCUSS THESE RESULTS FROM TIME TO TIME WITH THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION.

"SO WE ARE NOT SAYING IT IS CAST IN CONCRETE FOREVER. BUT AT THE MOMENT, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY FIGURE WHICH WOULD PERSUADE ME THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO MOVE ON THAT," HE SAID.

DATE SET FOR NAVAL BASE MOVE

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WELL OVER A CENTURY OF ROYAL NAVY PRESENCE IN THE HEART OF HONG KONG WILL COME TO AN END IN MAY WHEN THE NAVAL BASE AT HMS TAMAR IN CENTRAL MOVES TO ITS NEW SITE ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

ON MAY 17 A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD TO MARK THE CLOSURE OF HMS TAMAR IN CENTRAL AND ON THE NEXT DAY THE NEW NAVAL BASE ON STONECUTTERS WILL BE FORMALLY OPENED WITH A NAMING CEREMONY.

MOVING TO STONECUTTERS ISLAND ON THIS DATE WILL BE THE NAVY'S THREE PATROL CRAFT, HMS PEACOCK, HMS PLOVER AND HMS STARLING, TOGETHER WITH A NUMBER OF SMALLER CRAFT AND THE NAVY'S OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT STAFF.

HEADQUARTERS BRITISH FORCES HONG KONG WILL REMAIN IN ITS PRESENT LOCATION IN THE PRINCE OF WALES BUILDING IN CENTRAL UNTIL 1997. ON LOSING THE NAME HMS TAMAR, THE SITE IN CENTRAL WILL BE RETITLED "PRINCE OF WALES BARRACKS".

THE AREA RELEASED BY THE NAVY IN CENTRAL - THAT IS THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE CURRENT HMS TAMAR, INCLUDING THE BASIN, WORKSHOPS AND OTHER BUILDINGS - IS DUE TO BE REDEVELOPED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

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RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES FOR FOURTH QUARTER

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE RESTAURANT SECTOR LAST YEAR, ESTIMATED AT \$45.5 BILLION, INCREASED BY 18% WHEN COMPARED WITH 1991, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RECEIPTS INCREASED BY 7% IN VOLUME TERMS. THE VALUE OF TOTAL PURCHASES OF RESTAURANTS INCREASED BY 14% TO \$16.8 BILLION OVER 1991.

LAST YEAR, STRONG GROWTH WAS RECORDED FOR BARS AND FAST FOOD SHOPS. WHEN COMPARED WITH 1991, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF BARS ROSE CONSIDERABLY, BY 46% IN VALUE AND 29% IN VOLUME. SIMILARLY, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF FAST FOOD SHOPS REGISTERED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF 29% IN VALUE AND 18% IN VOLUME.

MODERATE GROWTH WAS RECORDED FOR THE OTHER TYPES OF RESTAURANTS. THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS BOTH INCREASED BY 16% IN VALUE AND 5% IN VOLUME, WHILE THOSE OF OTHER MISCELLANEOUS EATING AND DRINKING PLACES WENT UP BY 14% IN VALUE AND 5% IN VOLUME.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR, ESTIMATED AT \$11.5 BILLION, INCREASED BY 13% WHEN COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO. IN VOLUME TERMS, THE RECEIPTS WERE UP BY 2%.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL PURCHASES BY RESTAURANTS IN THIS QUARTER WAS \$4.2 BILLION, 6% HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1991.

AMONG DIFFERENT TYPES OF RESTAURANTS, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF BARS RECORDED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF 1991, BY 30% IN VALUE AND 16% IN VOLUME. FOR FAST FOOD SHOPS, TOTAL RECEIPTS WERE UP BY 16% IN VALUE AND 8% IN VOLUME.

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS INCREASED AT A LESS RAPID RATE, BY 11% AND 13% IN VALUE RESPECTIVELY. IN VOLUME TERMS, THE RESPECTIVE INCREASES WERE 1% AND 3%.

COMPARING WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THE COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR DECREASED BY 3% IN VALUE AND 5% IN VOLUME.

RESTAURANT RECEIPTS IN VOLUME TERMS ARE DERIVED FROM RECEIPTS IN VALUE TERMS AFTER ADJUSTING FOR PRICE CHANGES. THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS DEFLATORS.

THE REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR IS NOW ON SALE AT \$1.5 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 802 1258.

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TABLE 1: TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES

		3rd qtr. 1992 (Revised figures)	4th qtr. 1992 (Provisional figures)
Total restaurant receipts	(in HK\$ million)	11 952.0	11 545.9
Total purchases by restaurants	(in HK\$ million)	4 285.9	4 212.0

TABLE 2: VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS FOR 3rd QUARTER 1992 AND 4th QUARTER 1992

(Quarterly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Type of restaurant	Index of total restaurant receipts	3rd quarter 1992	4th quarter 1992	4th qtr. 1992 compared with 3rd qtr. 1992		4th qtr. 1992 compared with 4th qtr. 1991		1st-4th qtr. 1992 compared with 1st-4th qtr. 1991	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	points	%	points	%
Chinese restaurants	Value	129.7	126.9	-2.8	-2.2	+12.9	+11.3	+17.4	+16.0
	Volume	98.5	94.8	-3.8	-3.8	+0.7	+0.8	+4.2	+4.5
Non-Chinese restaurants	Value	140.2	128.5	-11.7	-8.3	+14.9	+13.1	+17.4	+15.7
	Volume	108.0	98.0	-10.0	-9.2	+2.8	+2.9	+4.6	+4.8
Fast food shops	Value	191.2	185.6	-5.7	-3.0	+26.0	+16.3	+39.5	+28.5
	Volume	153.7	147.3	-6.4	-4.2	+10.3	+7.5	+22.4	+18.4
Bars	Value	203.3	202.5	-0.8	-0.4	+46.9	+30.1	+57.1	+45.7
	Volume	153.9	151.4	-2.6	-1.7	+21.2	+16.3	+31.5	+29.3
Other eating and drinking places	Value	149.0	162.6	+13.6	+9.1	+8.7	+5.7	+19.5	+14.4
	Volume	120.0	129.8	+9.9	+8.2	-3.1	-2.3	+6.4	+5.4
All restaurant types	Value	139.1	134.3	-4.7	-3.4	+15.1	+12.6	+20.2	+18.0
	Volume	106.8	101.6	-5.2	-4.8	+2.4	+2.4	+6.5	+6.7

ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENT FOR LOTTERIES FUND INJECTION  
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE INJECTION OF THE \$2.3 BILLION INTO THE LOTTERIES FUND HAD NO IMPLICATION FOR THE PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED IN THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY 1996/97.

IT WAS PURELY AN ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENT.

"THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY HAD REAFFIRMED AT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON MARCH 17 THAT THE CURRENT FINANCIAL FORECASTS SHOWED THAT THE GENERAL REVENUE ALLOCATION (GRA) WOULD BE ABLE TO ABSORB THE RECURRENT COST OF SERVICES FUNDED BY THE LOTTERIES FUND WHEN THE CAPITAL INJECTION WAS EXHAUSTED AFTER 1996/97," HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT LAST OCTOBER THE GOVERNOR HAD PLEDGED TO IMPLEMENT THE KEY TARGETS IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE WHITE PAPER AND THE REHABILITATION GREEN PAPER, AS WELL AS TO IMPROVE THE MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS UNDER THE NEW COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

"BY USING THE LOTTERIES FUND TO FUND EXISTING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS SERVICES, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO FUND ALL SOCIAL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS FROM THE GRA THEREBY AVOIDING EXCESSIVELY COMPLICATED DUAL PAYMENT SYSTEMS WHICH WOULD HAVE DELAYED COMPUTERISATION," HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S ALLOCATION PACKAGE ON SOCIAL WELFARE WAS A BALANCED ONE WITH IMPROVEMENTS NOT ONLY ON SOCIAL SECURITY BUT ALSO ON DIRECT SERVICES.

HE NOTED THAT BETWEEN NOW AND 1996/97, RECURRENT SPENDING ON SOCIAL WELFARE WOULD INCREASE BY 26 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

HE ADDED THAT THE \$7,633 MILLION OF THE 1993/94 DRAFT ESTIMATES WOULD BE SPENT ON THE DEPARTMENT'S ADMINISTRATION, RECURRENT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR NON-GOVERNMENT RUN SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AND RECURRENT EXPENDITURE ON GOVERNMENT-RUN WELFARE SERVICES.

HE REITERATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE THRUST OF THIS YEAR'S BUDGET PROVISIONS WOULD AIM TO MEET KEY TARGETS, THE QUALITY OF SERVICE WOULD ALSO BE IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY.

"THE GOVERNOR SAID IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS THAT HONG KONG TOOK PRIDE IN THE WAY THE TERRITORY HAD IMPROVED ITS WELFARE SERVICES IN BOTH SCOPE AND QUALITY OVER THE LAST DECADE, THE PROVISION FOR SOCIAL WELFARE UNDER THE DRAFT ESTIMATES WILL ENABLE US TO CONTINUE TO HEAD FOR THAT DIRECTION," HE ADDED.

THE NEW COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME TO BE IMPLEMENTED ON JULY 1 WILL BRING REAL IMPROVEMENTS TO CUSTOMERS OF BETWEEN FOUR AND 37 PER CENT IN MONTHLY PAYMENT.

IN ADDITION TO THE SCHEME, HE SAID ADDITIONAL MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS, PROBATION OFFICERS, FAMILY CASE WORKERS AND SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS WERE AREAS TO BE IMPROVED.

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MR STRACHAN SAID THIS YEAR'S BUDGET PROVIDED FOR AN EXTRA 1,782 PLACES IN CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, 1,400 NURSERY PLACES, 273 DAY CRECHE PLACES AND 75 OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE PLACES.

HE STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE ALL THE KEY TARGETS FOR 1997 ON THE WELFARE FRONT.

"OUR CURRENT PLANNING IS TO MEET ALL THE TARGETS FOR COMMUNITY AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY BY 1997," HE SAID.

"APART FROM THE ELDERLY WHO WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL PRIORITY, SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WOMEN IN THE BROADER SENSE OF FAMILY CARE ARE WELL PROVIDED FOR," HE SAID.

FOR CHILDREN, IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 5,600 NURSERY PLACES, AN EXTRA 1,200 DAY CRECHE PLACES, MORE FAMILY-LIKE CARE AS IN 200 MORE FOSTER CARE PLACES AND AN ADDITIONAL 45 SMALL GROUP HOMES, HE ADDED.

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#### INGENIOUS IDEAS HELP IMPROVE CIVIL SERVICE EFFICIENCY

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FOR TRANSPORT CONTROLLER II CHAN BING-MEN, MONTHS OF HARD WORK AND CREATIVE THINKING HAVE EARNED HIM A CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION AND A CASH AWARD OF \$12,500 FROM THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR CHAN'S INNOVATION OF AN ANTI-PROBE RING AND METAL DISC TO PREVENT TAMPERING WITH PARKING METERS IS ONE OF THE 22 AWARD-WINNING ENTRIES IN THE 1992 STAFF SUGGESTIONS SCHEME.

"THERE USED TO BE ABOUT A HUNDRED TAMPERED METERS AWAITING REPAIRS IN OUR DEPOT EVERY MONTH," RECALLED MR CHAN, AGED 59, OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S HONG KONG PARKING METER MAINTENANCE DEPOT.

"IN THE COURSE OF MY WORK, I OFTEN WONDERED HOW THE DAMAGE WAS DONE AND HOW IT COULD BE PREVENTED.

"THE NOVEL DEVICE WAS SUCCESSFULLY TESTED AFTER MONTHS OF TRIAL AND ERROR, AND I AM VERY GLAD THAT IT HAS NOW BEEN INSTALLED IN PARKING METERS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY," HE SAID WITH A GRIN.

ANOTHER AWARD RECIPIENT, MR CHEUNG TAT-WING OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, OWES HIS INVENTION TO ABANDONED BARBECUE FORKS.

THE 32-YEAR-OLD FIELD OFFICER I HAS FOUND AN EASY METHOD TO REMOVE THE METAL PART OF THE FORKS AND USED IT FOR BARBECUE GRILLS, CONCRETE SLABS AND FENCES IN COUNTRY PARKS.

HIS SUGGESTION HAS WON HIM A CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION AND A CASH AWARD OF \$5,000.

/OTHER WINNING .....

OTHER WINNING SUGGESTIONS INCLUDE AN IMPROVED FILING METHOD FOR PATIENT HISTORY SHEETS, DESIGN OF STORAGE SYSTEM FOR EQUIPMENT ON POLICE VEHICLES AND STREAMLINING TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENT FOR BITER ANIMALS.

AT THE AWARD-PRESENTATION CEREMONY TODAY, MR WIGGHAM CONGRATULATED THE RECIPIENTS FOR THEIR INGENIOUS IDEAS, WHICH "HAVE SET FINE EXAMPLES TOWARDS IMPROVING CIVIL SERVICE EFFICIENCY".

HE NOTED THAT MANY USEFUL AND PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM OFFICERS FROM DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS AND AT VARIOUS LEVELS SINCE THE STAFF SUGGESTIONS SCHEME, IN ITS PRESENT FORM, WAS LAUNCHED IN 1975.

"MANY OF THE SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND SUBSEQUENTLY ACHIEVED THE OBJECTIVE OF BETTER UTILISATION OF RESOURCES," HE ADDED.

AS PART OF THE PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE DELIVERY OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, MR WIGGHAM SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO DEVOLVE TO DEPARTMENTS THE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY TO INVITE, CONSIDER AND REWARD CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS AND SERVICES FROM THEIR STAFF.

A PILOT SCHEME INVOLVING 10 DEPARTMENTS BEGAN IN JANUARY AND A REVIEW WILL BE UNDERTAKEN LATER TO FINE-TUNE THE IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS, BEFORE DEVOLVING THE SCHEME FULLY TO DEPARTMENTS.

HOWEVER, SUGGESTIONS WHICH HAVE SERVICE-WIDE IMPLICATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ADMINISTERED CENTRALLY BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH.

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#### DECLARATION OF WEIGHT ON EXPORT LICENCE APPLICATIONS

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT REMINDED EXPORTERS THAT, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, THEY ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE TOTAL WEIGHT OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS IN KILOGRAM IN ALL EXPORT LICENCE APPLICATIONS TO THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (EFTA) COUNTRIES.

"THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WEIGHT IN TERMS OF KILOGRAM IS TO HELP MONITORING OF TEXTILES EXPORTS TO ALL EFTA COUNTRIES," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

EFTA COMPRISES AUSTRIA, FINLAND, ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN, NORWAY, SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND. OF WHICH AUSTRIA, FINLAND AND NORWAY ARE CURRENTLY HAVING BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENTS WITH HONG KONG.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE DECLARED WEIGHT SHOULD BE THE ACTUAL WEIGHT OF THE TEXTILE PRODUCTS IN QUESTION WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WEIGHT OF THE PACKAGING MATERIALS.

IF A CONSIGNMENT COMPRISES MORE THAN ONE RANGE OF PRODUCT, THE BREAKDOWN OF WEIGHT FOR EACH RANGE OF PRODUCT SHOULD BE SEPARATELY LISTED AT THE "NUMBER OF UNITS" COLUMN IN THE APPLICATION FORM.

WHERE APPLICABLE, THE WEIGHT OF EACH SIZE IN EACH RANGE MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN CALCULATING THE TOTAL WEIGHT FOR THAT RANGE OF PRODUCT.

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AIRPORT APRON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

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THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR PHASE III WORKS OF THE SOUTH APRON DEVELOPMENT AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

WORKS INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ABOUT 2,500 SQUARE METRES OF AIRCRAFT PAVEMENT AND 11,500 SQUARE METRES OF VEHICULAR PAVEMENT ON THE SITE OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE HEADQUARTERS, KOWLOON BAY.

AN ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT PARKING BAY WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.

CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO START IN JUNE FOR COMPLETION IN 10 MONTHS.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER, DEVELOPMENT AND AIRPORT DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, SECOND FLOOR, CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING, 101 PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, HO MAN TIN, KOWLOON.

TENDERS OFFER WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON APRIL 23.

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GARMENT TRADER FINED FOR ORIGIN FRAUD

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A GARMENT TRADING COMPANY PROSECUTED BY THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT FOR IMPORTING GARMENTS WITH LABELS FALSELY INDICATED THEIR ORIGINS WAS FINED \$600,000 AT WAN CHAI DISTRICT COURT TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE \$2.1 MILLION WORTH OF GARMENTS WERE FORFEITED.

THE DEFENDANT, TAI WELL INTERNATIONAL LIMITED, WAS HOUSED AT HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL CENTRE, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE COMPANY ADMITTED FOUR COUNTS OF IMPORTING FROM CHINA 79,568 PAIRS OF MEN'S COTTON WOVEN SHORTS BEARING FALSE LABELS OF ORIGIN IN APRIL 1991.

IN THE MONTH CUSTOMS OFFICERS SEIZED 21,276 PAIRS OF THE SHIRTS WHICH LABELLED "MADE IN PANAMA" FROM A CONTAINER INTERCEPTED AT MAN KAM TO CONTROL POINT.

/THEY WERE .....

THEY WERE PACKED INSIDE CARTONS WITH THE SHIPPING MARK "OAKLAND, MADE IN PANAMA" WHICH WERE ENCLOSED IN ADDITIONAL CARTONS THAT BORE NO SHIPPING MARK.

THE SHORTS WERE MANUFACTURED IN CHINA AND IMPORTED BY THE DEFENDANT.

FOLLOW-UP ENQUIRIES REVEALED THAT THREE OTHER CONSIGNMENTS OF MEN'S COTTON WOVEN SHORTS WITH SIMILAR FALSE LABELS HAD EARLIER BEEN IMPORTED FROM CHINA BY THE DEFENDANT PENDING EXPORT TO A BUYER IN PANAMA.

THE HEAD OF CUSTOMS TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU, MR ANDREW WONG, SAID IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THE SHORTS WERE PREPARED TO BE SHIPPED FROM HONG KONG TO PANAMA AND THEN PROBABLY TO THE UNITED STATES.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN VERY CONCERNED WITH THIS TYPE OF TEXTILES TRANSHIPMENT FRAUDS AS THEY WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO HONG KONG'S GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS TRADING PARTNERS.

"WE WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE VIGOROUS ACTION TO STOP SUCH FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES AND SPARE NO EFFORT TO PROSECUTE THE OFFENDERS," MR WONG SAID.

OFFENCES RELATED TO TRANSHIPMENT FRAUDS CARRY A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF A \$500,000 FINE AND TWO YEARS IN JAIL ON EACH COUNT OF OFFENCE. THE GOODS WILL ALSO BE FORFEITED.

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#### LANTAU TOLL PLAZA ADVANCE EARTHWORKS CONTRACT

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM SUITABLE CONTRACTORS TO BE PREQUALIFIED FOR TENDERING FOR THE LANTAU TOLL PLAZA ADVANCE EARTHWORKS CONTRACT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE TOLL PLAZA WILL BE LOCATED ON NORTHEAST LANTAU BETWEEN THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY TO THE WEST AND KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE TO THE EAST, BOTH UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

UPON COMPLETION, IT WILL PROVIDE A SITE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TOLL PLAZA AND OTHER ASSOCIATED WORKS.

A SPOKESMAN SAID THE ADVANCE EARTHWORKS WOULD INVOLVE 1.6 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF EARTH OR ROCK EXCAVATION, ONE MILLION CUBIC METRE OF EMBANKMENT CONSTRUCTION AND 0.4 MILLION CUBIC METRE OF FILL MATERIAL FOR RECLAMATION AT TSING CHAU WAN.

DETAILS OF THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE ARE CONTAINED IN THE GAZETTE PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY).

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1993

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PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSULTING ENGINEERS, MOTT MACDONALD HONG KONG LIMITED, 12TH FLOOR, SUN HUNG KAI CENTRE, 30 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

APPLICATIONS FOR PREQUALIFICATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS ON OR BEFORE NOON ON APRIL 23 (FRIDAY).

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SERVICES CONTRACT FOR CHEUNG CHING TUNNEL

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM CONTRACTORS TO PREQUALIFY FOR TENDERING FOR THE ROUTE 3 CHEUNG CHING TUNNEL - TUNNEL SERVICES CONTRACT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE CONTRACT INVOLVED THE DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL FACILITIES FOR THE CHEUNG CHING TUNNEL TO BE BUILT ON TSING YI ISLAND.

THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL FACILITIES INCLUDE THE POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM, TUNNEL LIGHTING SYSTEM, FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM AND BUILDING SERVICES, HE SAID.

A NOTICE DETAILING THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM SPHW, C/O SCOTT WILSON KIRKPATRICK AND PARTNERS, 38TH FLOOR METROPLAZA TOWER 1, 223 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI FONG, NEW TERRITORIES, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE RETURNED NOT LATER THAN NOON ON MAY 14.

TENDERS FROM PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS ARE EXPECTED TO BE INVITED IN JULY OR AUGUST THIS YEAR.

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TWO WATER WORKS PROJECTS ON LANTAU

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPROVED CONTRACTORS TO PARTICIPATE IN PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISES FOR TWO WATER WORKS PROJECTS.

ONE OF THESE INVOLVES THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF EIGHT KILOMETRES OF LAND AND SUBMARINE RAW WATER STEEL MAINS WITH A DIAMETER OF 1,800 MILLIMETRES FROM TAI LAM CHUNG RESERVOIR TO TA PANG PO ON THE NORTHERN COAST OF LANTAU ISLAND.

/THOSE ON .....

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1993

THOSE ON THE APPROVED CONTRACTORS FOR PUBLIC WORKS LIST I IN GROUP C CONFIRMED FOR BOTH WATERWORKS AND PORT WORKS, OR LIST II CONFIRMED FOR BOTH WATERWORKS AND PORT WORKS, ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS FROM MOTT MACDONALD HONG KONG LTD, 12TH FLOOR, SUN HUNG KAI CENTRE, 30 HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG.

ANOTHER PROJECT THAT CALLS FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WATER TREATMENT PLANT AS WELL AS TREATED AND RAW WATER PUMPING STATIONS IN SIU HO WAN, NORTH LANTAU.

THE CONTRACTOR HAS TO DO ALL CIVIL AND BUILDING WORKS FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT AND PUMPING STATIONS.

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF WATER TREATMENT AND CONTROL EQUIPMENT IS ALSO REQUIRED FOR PRODUCING A DAILY OUTPUT OF 150 MILLION LITRES OF FRESH WATER.

THE TREATMENT WORKS WILL SERVE BOTH THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND NORTH LANTAU DEVELOPMENTS.

THOSE ON THE APPROVED CONTRACTORS FOR PUBLIC WORKS LIST I IN GROUP C CONFIRMED FOR WATERWORKS, OR LIST II CONFIRMED FOR WATERWORKS MAY APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS FROM PHH/SWK WATER CONSULTANTS, THIRD FLOOR, ASIAN HOUSE, 1 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

TENDERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE CALLED FROM PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS LATER THIS YEAR. THE TWO PROJECTS WILL TAKE 24 TO 27 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FIRST PROJECT ARE NOON ON MAY 7 AND FOR THE SECOND ONE NOON ON MAY 12.

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DREDGING OF SEABED IN TSING LUNG TAU

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PERMIT A COMPANY TO USE AN AREA OF 6.17 SQUARE METRES OF SEABED AT TSING LUNG TAU, TSUEN WAN AS A WORKS AREA FOR DREDGING AND LAYING PIPEWORK OF AN EFFLUENT DISCHARGE DRAINAGE SYSTEM FOR A PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PROJECT.

THE WORK WILL START IN JUNE AND BE COMPLETED IN THREE MONTHS.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE MAY 25.

THE NOTICE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, TOGETHER WITH THE RELATED PLAN, CAN BE SEEN ON THE NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND AT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE PLAN CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE.

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SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT

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ENROLMENTS ARE NOW INVITED ON A SYMPOSIUM TO PROMOTE THE CONCEPTS OF MODERN SAFETY MANAGEMENT IN HONG KONG'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

THE HALF-DAY SYMPOSIUM, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL, WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 19 BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 1 PM AT THEATRE ONE OF THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE IN WAN CHAI.

MR DAVID EVES, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, WILL SPEAK ON SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN HEAVY BUILDING AND ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

MR RAE STEWARD, SENIOR LECTURER OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, WILL GIVE A LECTURE ON THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF CONSTRUCTION SAFETY MANAGEMENT.

THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, WILL DELIVER AN OPENING ADDRESS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A 30-MINUTE FORUM FOR THE PARTICIPANTS TO ASK QUESTIONS AND EXCHANGE VIEWS.

THE ENROLMENT FEE IS \$480 PER PERSON INCLUDING LUNCH, AND THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENROLMENT IS APRIL 5, 1993.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON THE 13TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD IN CENTRAL, BY CALLING 852 3562 OR 852 3565, OR BY FAX ON 544 3497.

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LINE-UP OF COUNCIL FOR PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNOR HAS RE-APPOINTED PROFESSOR WANG GUNGWU CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR, IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE HAS ALSO RE-APPOINTED 16 MEMBERS FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM STARTING FROM THE SAME DATE.

FOLLOWING IS A FULL LIST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

- PROFESSOR WANG GUNGWU (CHAIRMAN)
- MR PETER K C WOO (VICE-CHAIRMAN)
- MR MARVIN CHEUNG KIN-TUNG
- MR VINCENT CHOW WING-SHING
- PROFESSOR DAVID GWILT
- DR ARLIS HIEBERT
- DR LAM TAI-HING
- MRS MIRIAM LAU KIN-YEE
- MR JOHN K C LEE
- MR RAYMOND K P LIU
- MR KEVIN C P LO
- MR LO KING-MAN
- DIRECTOR, THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS
- REPRESENTATIVE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL
- REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL
- SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE
- COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE

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SOCIALLY HANDICAPPED NEED HELP TO FIND JOBS

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HELPING A SOCIALLY HANDICAPPED PERSON TO FIND A JOB PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN HIS OVERALL REHABILITATIVE PROCESS, MRS PATTEN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE SOUVENIR-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, MRS PATTEN PAID TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT TO ITS JOB PLACEMENT SCHEME.

"THE DISTINGUISHED EMPLOYERS WE HONOUR TODAY SET A VERY POSITIVE EXAMPLE TO OTHER EMPLOYERS IN HONG KONG.

"THEY HAVE HELPED TO DISPEL THE NEGATIVE IMAGE OF THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED IN HONG KONG," MRS PATTEN SAID.

"ALTHOUGH THERE MAY STILL BE SOME SOCIAL PREJUDICE AND MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED, I AM VERY GLAD TO SEE THAT MOST EMPLOYERS ARE OPEN-MINDED AND CARING," SHE ADDED.

MRS PATTEN POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS MORE COMPLEX FOR DISCHARGED PRISONERS, EX-DRUG ADDICTS, METHADON PATIENTS, PROBATIONERS, YOUTHS ATRISK AND ELDERLY PERSONS OVER 60 YEARS OF AGE TO FIND A JOB BECAUSE OF THEIR SPECIAL BACKGROUNDS OR PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

THEY NEED TO RECEIVE PRE-JOB TRAINING AND COUNSELLING, JOB PLACEMENT AND AFTER-CARE COUNSELLING TO HELP THEM BOTH FIND AND KEEP A JOB, SHE ADDED.

MRS PATTEN PRAISED THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FOR PROVIDING THIS VERY USEFUL AND WORTHWHILE SERVICE FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

TWO NEW PROGRAMMES HAVE NOW BEEN INTRODUCED FOR YOUNG PROBATIONERS AND FOR ELDERLY PERSONS.

LAST YEAR THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE HELPED MORE THAN 400 CLIENTS IN THIS WAY, REPRESENTING AN OVERALL SUCCESS RATE OF ABOUT 60 PER CENT.

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MAN FINED FOR POSSESSING WILD ORCHIDS

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR FLOWER TRADERS FOUND GUILTY OF POSSESSING OR TRADING IN WILD ORCHIDS WITHOUT VALID LICENCES ISSUED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WILL BE LIABLE TO HEAVY FINES.

THE REMINDER WAS ISSUED BY SENIOR CONSERVATION OFFICER, MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG, AFTER A 44-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS FINED \$17,200 PLUS \$5,000 COURT COSTS TODAY (FRIDAY) BY A SHA TIN MAGISTRATE.

THE CONVICTED PERSON HAD ALL HIS WILD ORCHIDS CONFISCATED.

MR CHEUNG SAID: "WILD ORCHIDS ARE ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES PROTECTED UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE IN HONG KONG."

"UNDER THE ORDINANCE, ANYONE FOUND GUILTY OF ILLEGALLY IMPORTING, EXPORTING OR POSSESSING SUCH WILD ORCHID PLANTS WILL BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000 AND IN THE CASE OF A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE A FINE OF \$50,000 PLUS SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT," HE SAID.

THE CASE WAS UNCOVERED IN JANUARY LAST YEAR WHEN THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S OFFICERS, ACTING ON INFORMATION, SEARCHED A FLAT IN A PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATE IN TAI PO.

THEY FOUND 86 PIECES OF WILD ORCHIDS WHICH WERE WITHOUT VALID POSSESSION LICENCES. THE OFFENDER WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PROSECUTED.

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VARIETY SHOW TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION

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AN OUTDOOR VARIETY SHOW TO MARK THE CONCLUSION OF "NEWSRAMA - HUMAN RIGHTS", A 13-EPIISODE RADIO PROGRAMME ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW, WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (MARCH 28) AT THE PIAZZA METRO, METROPLAZA, KWAI FONG.

THE PROGRAMME IS A JOINT PRESENTATION BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG (RTHK) AND THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION.

/THE VARIETY .....

THE VARIETY SHOW WILL FEATURE DRAMA, QUIZ AND PERFORMANCE BY POPULAR SINGERS. FOUR LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, MR JAMES TO, MR HENRY TANG, MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG AND MR GILBERT LEUNG WILL TAKE PART IN A DEBATE.

THE SHOW WILL START AT 3 PM AND WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON RTHK RADIO ONE.

THE VARIETY SHOW WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THERE WILL BE COMPUTER GAMES AND CARTOON STRIPS ON DISPLAY STARTING FROM NOON THAT DAY. ADMISSION IS FREE.

IN THE EVENT OF POOR WEATHER, THE VARIETY SHOW WILL BE HELD INDOOR AT THE CRYSTAL ATRIUM, METROPLAZA.

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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	1,415
REVERSAL OF LAF	+735
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-155
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,995
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.8 **0.0* 26.3.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.53 PCT	14 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.49	3.28
1 MONTH	2.66 PCT	17 MONTHS	2408	5.50	101.28	3.45
3 MONTHS	2.78 PCT	20 MONTHS	2411	4.375	101.59	3.65
6 MONTHS	2.99 PCT	23 MONTHS	2502	4.625	101.68	3.85
12 MONTHS	3.30 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 8,535MN

CLOSED 26 MARCH 1993

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