



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1992

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SAFETY RECORD IN CONSTRUCTION MUST BE IMPROVED: GOVERNOR

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HONG KONG MUST IMPROVE ITS SAFETY RECORD IN CONSTRUCTION AS IT FORGES AHEAD WITH EXCITING NEW PROJECTS WHICH WILL CREATE THE HONG KONG OF TOMORROW.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, WHEN SPEAKING AT THE 17TH ANNUAL DINNER OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

LORD WILSON SAID THERE WERE FAR TOO MANY INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES AND THAT THERE WERE FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE EVEN LOST THEIR LIVES IN THESE ACCIDENTS.

"WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT, IN EVERY WAY, THEY (THESE PROJECTS) ARE CARRIED OUT IN A MANNER WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE IN THE HONG KONG OF TODAY," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR ALL INVOLVED TO WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE RECORD.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THERE WAS NO EASY SOLUTION. ALL POSSIBILITIES MUST BE EXPLORED AND THESE INCLUDED:

- * SAFETY CAMPAIGNS AND TRAINING FOR EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS;
- * MODIFIED CONTRACT CONDITIONS TO ENCOURAGE CONTRACTORS TO PROVIDE BETTER SAFETY MEASURES;
- * AS WELL AS, POSSIBLY, TOUGHER LEGISLATION.

LORD WILSON STRESSED THAT WORKERS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT.

"WE MUST DO OUR BEST TO PROTECT THEM," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID ONE OF THE MANY GOOD FEATURES OF THE ENGINEERS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE WAS THAT IT WAS OPEN TO ENGINEERS FROM ANY COUNTRY, TRAINING BACKGROUND OR INSTITUTION MEMBERSHIP, PROVIDING THEY HAD WORKING EXPERIENCE IN HONG KONG AND WERE RESIDENT HERE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE INTERNATIONAL DEALINGS, THIS "OPEN DOOR" APPROACH TO REGISTRATION, WITHOUT SACRIFICING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, WAS ESSENTIAL.

HE SAID PROFESSIONALS LIKE ENGINEERS COULD GO WELL BEYOND THE STRICT LIMITS OF THEIR PROFESSION AND CONTRIBUTE IN THE BROADEST POSSIBLE WAY TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNOR SAID IT MUST BE AN UNUSUAL, NOT TO SAY UNIQUE, SITUATION WHEN THE FUTURE GROWTH, AND POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL CONFIDENCE IN A PLACE, HINGED SO DIRECTLY ON THE WORK OF ENGINEERS IN PLANNING, DESIGNING AND CONSTRUCTING HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE.

"MUCH RESTS ON YOUR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND YOUR ENERGY AND HARD WORK," HE SAID.

LORD WILSON ALSO PRAISED THE INSTITUTION FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

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CONSTRUCTION OF WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO CONSTRUCT THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING BETWEEN THE WESTERN RECLAMATION AT SAI YING PUN ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION.

IT IS THE THIRD CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL LINKING HONG KONG ISLAND WITH KOWLOON.

AS AN AIRPORT CORE PROJECT, IT IS A VITAL PART OF ROUTE 3, GIVING ACCESS TO THE NEW TERRITORIES AND, BY CONNECTING WITH THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING ON TSING YI ISLAND, THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THE TUNNEL WILL BE ABOUT TWO KILOMETRES FROM PORTAL TO PORTAL AND THE TUBE ALONE IS 1.36 KILOMETRES LONG.

VENTILATION BUILDINGS ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED, CLOSE TO THE SEAWALL ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR.

A FREE-FLOW INTERCHANGE WILL BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE WESTERN RECLAMATION AT SAI YING PUN, PROVIDING SLIP ROAD CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE TUNNEL, CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST AND A PROPOSED ELEVATED EXTENSION OF ROUTE 7 BETWEEN RUMSEY STREET FLYOVER AND WATER STREET.

A TOLL PLAZA AND AN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING WILL BE LOCATED ON THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WILL BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1997, PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED WORKS IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

PLANS SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES DURING OFFICE HOURS:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.
- * THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, MIDDLE ROAD CARPARK BUILDING, 15 MIDDLE ROAD, KOWLOON.
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG WEST, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NOT LATER THAN MAY 5 THIS YEAR, DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL.

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CONSTRUCTION OF NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY SECOND PHASE PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO CONSTRUCT THE SECOND PHASE OF THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY FROM KEI TAU KOK TO THE PROPOSED TUNG CHUNG DEVELOPMENTS AND THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY WAS A CRUCIAL ELEMENT OF AN EXTENSIVE TRANSPORT NETWORK DESIGNED TO PROVIDE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE NEW AIRPORT AND DEVELOPMENTS ON LANTAU.

"THE SECOND PHASE OF THE EXPRESSWAY IS ABOUT 2.6 KILOMETRES.

"THE WORKS WILL INCLUDE A DUAL THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY, AN UTILITY RESERVE AND FORMATION FOR A TWO-TRACK RAILWAY," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED WORKS WERE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE EXPRESSWAY, OF WHICH TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION, IS ABOUT 9.9 KILOMETRES LINKING TSING CHAU TSAI IN THE EAST WITH KEI TAU KOK IN THE WEST ON LANTAU ISLAND.

THE WHOLE EXPRESSWAY WILL RUN ALONG THE FULL LENGTH OF THE COASTLINE ON EXISTING OR RECLAIMED LAND BETWEEN THE WESTERN END OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING AND THE NEW AIRPORT WITH INTERCHANGE FACILITIES AT TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN.

UPON ITS COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER ROAD AND RAIL PROJECTS, THE TRAVELLING TIME BETWEEN HONG KONG ISLAND AND CHEK LAP KOK OR TUNG CHUNG COULD BE REDUCED TO ABOUT 30 MINUTES.

PLANS SHOWING PHASE II OF THE EXPRESSWAY CAN BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES DURING OFFICE HOURS:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, MUI WO SUB-OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, MUI WO GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2 NGAN KWONG WAN ROAD, MUI WO, LANTAU; AND
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE/ISLANDS, 19TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NOT LATER THAN MAY 5 DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL.

FUND APPROVED FOR WORKS TO DRAW MORE WATER FROM CHINA

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FOLLOWING THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL BUREAU OF WATER CONSERVANCY AND HYDRO-POWER LAST WEEK, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (FRIDAY) APPROVED \$27 MILLION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF EMERGENCY WATER PUMPING WORKS IN GUANGDONG.

"WITH THIS ADDITIONAL PUMPING CAPACITY A TOTAL OF 705 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER WILL BE DELIVERED TO HONG KONG BY THE END OF FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE PUMPING WORKS BY THE GUANGDONG AUTHORITY WILL START IMMEDIATELY AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY JUNE IN TIME TO COLLECT MORE WATER FOR DELIVERY TO HONG KONG THIS WET SEASON.

THE WORKS WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO EMERGENCY PUMPING STATIONS AT SHANGPU AND YANTIAN, THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE REGULATING CAPACITY OF THE SHENZHEN AND YANTIAN RESERVOIRS AND THE UPGRADING OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT AT EXISTING PUMPING STATIONS.

BY INCREASING THE MAXIMUM PUMPING RATE OF THE EAST RIVER SCHEME TO 705 MILLION CUBIC METRES, THERE WILL BE EXTRA AVAILABILITY OF WATER NEXT YEAR SHOULD THAT BE ANOTHER DRY YEAR.

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HK FLOWER SHOW POPULAR WITH THE PUBLIC

THE HONG KONG FLOWER SHOW, JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS EACH YEAR SINCE 1987, HAD BECOME A POPULAR EVENT AMONGST THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, LADY WILSON SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) WHEN SHE OFFICIALLY OPENED THIS YEAR'S FLOWER SHOW IN VICTORIA PARK.

THIS WAS INDICATED BY THE FACT THAT THE FLOWER SHOW ATTRACTED OVER 300 000 PEOPLE LAST YEAR AND THE YEAR BEFORE, LADY WILSON SAID.

"I HOPE IT ALSO REFLECTS AN INCREASING AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION OF THE EXCELLENT WORK BEING DONE BY THE TWO COUNCILS IN THE GREENING OF HONG KONG.

"NEW PARKS ARE PRIORITY PROJECTS. SINCE THE LAST FLOWER SHOW, WE HAVE SEEN THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG PARK AND THE TOWN PARK IN YUEN LONG," SHE ADDED.

LADY WILSON ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE LANDSCAPE PLANTING PROGRAMMES, WHICH WERE REGULARLY CARRIED OUT ALL OVER THE TERRITORY, HAD ALSO HELPED TO BEAUTIFY THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE BENEFIT AND ENJOYMENT OF THE COMMUNITY.

/"THIS FLOWER

"THIS FLOWER SHOW, IN ITS OWN UNIQUE WAY, HELPS TO PROMOTE GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS AND INTEREST IN PLANTS AND HORTICULTURE," SHE CONTINUED.

"MANY PEOPLE WHO VISIT US IN HONG KONG ARE IMPRESSED AND DELIGHTED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE PLACE. THE FACT THAT WE STILL HAVE FOURTY PERCENT OF HONG KONG AS COUNTRY PARK IS A REVELATION TO THEM - A FACT WHICH IS RARELY PUBLICISED OVERSEAS," LADY WILSON REMARKED.

WHILE HONG KONG'S KEEN HORTICULTURALISTS REGARDED THIS EVENT AS THE HIGHLIGHT OF "THEIR YEAR", SHE SAID, MANY PEOPLE WHO ALREADY GREW FLOWERS AND PLANTS IN THEIR HOMES WOULD BE INSPIRED BY THE EXHIBITS DISPLAYED AT THE FLOWER SHOW, ESPECIALLY EXHIBITS FROM THE OVERSEAS, TO GROW MORE.

"THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S SHOW IS 'FLOWERAMA'. OVER SEVENTY ORGANISATIONS, BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS, ARE PARTICIPATING, TO PROVIDE A VERY WIDE RANGE OF DISPLAYS.

"THE FLOWER ENTHUSIASTS WILL BE PARTICULARLY KEEN TO SEE THE MANY NATIONAL, STATE AND CITY FLOWERS WHICH ARE BEING EXHIBITED THIS YEAR," LADY WILSON SAID.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, DR RONALD LEUNG DING-BONG, THANKED LADY WILSON AT THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR HER PERSISTENT SUPPORT OF THE FLOWER SHOW OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS.

"THIS YEAR, OUR EXHIBITS COVER A WIDE RANGE OF EXOTIC FLORA CULTIVATED BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS, SOME OF THESE PLANTS AND FLOWERS MAKING THEIR DEBUT IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"APART FROM APPRECIATING A WIDE RANGE OF EXQUISITE FLORA, VISITORS OF THE SHOW WILL ALSO FIND MANY INTERESTING EDUCATIONAL AND FRINGE ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS TALKS AND DEMONSTRATIONS ON HORTICULTURE, BAND CONCERTS AND NOVEL CHILDREN'S PLAY FEATURES," DR LEUNG ADDED.

BEING THE SIXTH ANNUAL EVENT JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS SINCE 1987, THE FLOWER SHOW IS NOW OPENED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TILL MARCH 15.

THIS YEAR'S FLOWER SHOW FEATURES "FLOWERAMA" AS ITS THEME SYMBOLISING THE CONVERGENCE OF A GREAT VARIETY OF OVERSEAS NATIONAL AND CITY FLOWERS WITH THE LOCAL PLANTS OF HONG KONG.

APART FROM NATIONAL AND CITY FLOWERS, VISITORS TO THE FLOWER SHOW ARE ALSO ABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME TO APPRECIATE THE GARDENING SKILLS OF LOCAL PRIMARY PUPILS PARTICIPATING IN THE SHOW'S SCHOOL GARDEN PLOT COMPETITION.

ANOTHER NEW FEATURE OF THE FLOWER SHOW IS THE GARDENS CREATED BY THE PUPILS AT THE SHOW GROUND.

/IN ADDITION

IN ADDITION, A MAJOR DEMONSTRATION BY A RENOWNED JAPANESE FLORAL ARRANGEMENT MASTER OF THE SOGETSU SCHOOL WILL BE STAGED ON MARCH 12 AT 7 PM.

ANOTHER MAJOR ATTRACTION OF THE FLOWER SHOW IS THE COMPETITION SECTION CONSISTING OF 131 CLASSES OF EXHIBITS.

THE FLOWER SHOW ALSO FEATURES 45 STALLS FOR SALE OF FLOWERS AND OTHER HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS, AS WELL AS 20 COMMERCIAL STALLS DISPLAYING THE LATEST MODELS OF GARDENING MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT AND NEW HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

THIS DISPLAY WILL HELP TO UPDATE VISITORS ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN HORTICULTURE, AND PROVIDE THEM WITH PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE ON PLANT-GROWING.

THE 10-DAY FLOWER SHOW IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 9 AM TO 9 PM EVERY DAY. HOWEVER, IT WILL BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY FROM 2 PM ON MARCH 10 TO 2 PM ON MARCH 11.

ADMISSION TICKETS ARE PRICED AT \$10 FOR ADULTS AND \$5 FOR THE ELDERLIES, CHILDREN AND STUDENTS.

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HONG KONG TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN APEC

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HONG KONG, WHICH WAS ADMITTED TO TAKE PART IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (APEC) PROCESS IN NOVEMBER 1991, WOULD PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE VARIOUS WORKING GROUPS, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR JOHN TSANG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR TSANG HAS JUST RETURNED FROM BANGKOK AFTER ATTENDING AN APEC SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING TOGETHER WITH THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG. THIS TWO-DAY PREPARATORY MEETING WAS THE LEAD-UP TO THE FOURTH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF APEC SET FOR SEPTEMBER.

MR TSANG SAID HONG KONG WOULD TAKE PART IN MOST OF THE 10 APEC PROJECT GROUPINGS. THESE PROJECTS INCLUDED TRADE PROMOTIONS, TRADE AND INVESTMENT DATA INTERCHANGE, EXPANSION OF INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, REGIONAL ENERGY CO-OPERATION, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION AND TOURISM.

AT THE BANGKOK MEETING, REPRESENTATIVES OF 15 PACIFIC-RIM MEMBER STATES REACHED A CONSENSUS THAT SOME FORM OF SUPPORTIVE MECHANISM WAS NECESSARY TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GROUP IN IMPLEMENTING ITS WORK.

/THIS QUESTIONS

THE QUESTIONS OF THE OPTIMUM SIZE OF THE SUPPORTIVE MECHANISM, ITS WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH MEMBER PARTICIPANTS AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM THE INCREASED ACTIVITIES WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER AT THE NEXT SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE IN BANGKOK.

APEC WAS SET UP SOME THREE YEARS AGO TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC RIM. IT BRINGS TOGETHER 15 COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN).

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES REVISED

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (FRIDAY) APPROVED THE INCREASE IN THE BASIC RATES FOR THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA) AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES (SNA) SCHEMES, ESTIMATED AT \$365 MILLION IN ANNUAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PA AND SNA RECIPIENTS WILL HAVE THEIR PAYMENTS INCREASED BY 10.74 PER CENT AS A RESULT OF THE REVISION FROM NEXT MONTH.

THE ADJUSTMENT OF PA AND SNA PAYMENTS WAS IN LINE WITH THE INFLATION RATE SO AS TO MAINTAIN THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE CASH PAYMENT, HE EXPLAINED.

DETAILS OF THE NEW RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CATEGORY -----	EXISTING SCALE -----	NEW SCALE -----
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE -----		
SINGLE PERSON	\$745	\$825
FAMILY: FIRST MEMBER	\$560	\$620
SECOND MEMBER	\$560	\$620
THIRD MEMBER	\$550	\$610
FOURTH MEMBER	\$550	\$610
FIFTH AND EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER	\$540	\$600

/OLD AGE

OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT

* FOR A PA RECIPIENT WHO IS AGED 60 TO 69 AND IS NOT IN RECEIPT OF A SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE	\$373	\$413
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* FOR A PA RECIPIENT WHO IS AGED 70 OR OVER AND IS NOT IN RECEIPT OF A SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE	\$425	\$470
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DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT

(FOR A PA RECIPIENT WHO IS PARTIALLY DISABLED AND IS NOT IN RECEIPT OF AN OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT OR A SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE)	\$373	\$413
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CHILD SUPPLEMENT

	\$185	\$205
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LONG-TERM ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT

(FOR THOSE HOUSEHOLDS IN RECEIPT OF PA FOR 12 MONTHS OR MORE)		
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* FOR A SINGLE PERSON	\$950	\$1,050
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* FOR A FAMILY COMPRISING TWO TO FOUR MEMBERS	\$1,900	\$2,100
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* FOR A FAMILY COMPRISING FIVE OR MORE MEMBERS	\$2,850	\$3,150
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MEAL ALLOWANCE

(FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING FULL-DAY SCHOOLS AND REQUIRED TO TAKE LUNCH AWAY FROM HOME)	\$128	\$142
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SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES

OLD AGE ALLOWANCE

* NORMAL RATE (FOR THOSE AGED 65 TO 69)	\$373	\$413
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* HIGHER RATE (FOR THOSE AGED 70 AND OVER)	\$425	\$470
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DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

* NORMAL RATE	\$745	\$825
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* HIGHER RATE (FOR THOSE IN NEED OF CONSTANT ATTENDANCE)	\$1,490	\$1,650
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"SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT STAFF WILL AT ONCE START MAKING THE ADJUSTMENT TO THE PAYMENTS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

CITING A CASE INVOLVING A 70-YEAR-OLD ELDERLY SINGLETON WHO IS ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, HE SAID: "APART FROM THE BASIC RATE OF \$825, THE RECIPIENT IS ENTITLED TO A \$470 OLD AGE ALLOWANCE."

HE IS ALSO ENTITLED TO A LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT OF \$1,050 PAYABLE ONCE A YEAR - ABOUT \$90 A MONTH.

SHOULD HE NEED TO PAY THE COST OF ACCOMMODATION, A MAXIMUM OF \$600 IN RENT ALLOWANCE WOULD BE RELEASED TO HELP HIM, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE RECIPIENT IN THIS CASE WILL RECEIVE ABOUT \$2,000 A MONTH.

IN ADDITION, IF HE HAS ANY OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS, INCLUDING GLASSES AND DENTURES AS WELL AS SPECIAL DIET, ADDITIONAL PAYMENT WILL BE MADE TO COVER THE EXPENSES.

A FAMILY OF FOUR ON AVERAGE WILL GET ABOUT \$5,000 BUT CAN GET BETWEEN \$6,000 TO \$8,000 IF THE FAMILY HAS A SEVERELY DISABLED MEMBER OR A CHILD IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL OR NEED EXTRA MONEY TO EMPLOY A BABY SITTER.

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UPGC CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1992-93

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (MARCH 6) APPROVED NEW COMMITMENTS AND INCREASES IN COMMITMENTS TOTALLING \$838 MILLION FOR 11 CAPITAL PROJECTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) AND A FURTHER \$94 MILLION TO UPDATE THE COMMITMENT IN RESPECT OF ONE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED UPGC-FUNDED CAPITAL PROJECT IN LINE WITH THE TENDER PRICE INDEX (TPI) WHEN TENDERS WERE RECEIVED.

SPEAKING AFTER ATTENDING THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, THE UPGC CHAIRMAN, MR ANDREW LI, SAID:

"A TOTAL OF 40 CAPITAL PROPOSALS WERE RECEIVED BY THE UPGC FROM THE INSTITUTIONS FOR FUNDING IN 1992-93. THE COMMITTEE EXAMINED THESE PROPOSALS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ADDITIONAL SPACE REQUIRED BY INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE STUDENT NUMBER TARGETS DURING THE TERTIARY EXPANSION PERIOD UP TO 1994-95 AS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL IN 1990."

"THE COMMITTEE ALSO TOOK INTO ACCOUNT EARLIER DECISIONS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF THE FIRM STUDENT TARGET FOR THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG, THE PLANNED CAPACITY OF THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE AND THE BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS AS INDICATED BY THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

/"THE COMMITTEE

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"THE COMMITTEE ORIGINALLY RECOMMENDED 12 PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR FUNDING IN 1992-93," MR LI EXPLAINED. "HOWEVER, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SENTIMENT EXPRESSED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION AT ITS MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 29 THIS YEAR THAT THERE SHOULD BE A PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION POST 1994-95, I ADVISED THAT CONSIDERATION OF ONE ITEM, FOR SITE INVESTIGATION AND PLANNING FOR HKUST PHASE III, SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS MADE A FIRM DECISION ON THE STUDENT NUMBER TARGETS FOR THE UNIVERSITY DURING THE POST 1994-95 PERIOD."

THE UPGC IS UNDERTAKING A REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FURTHER EXPANSION PLAN AND WILL BE MAKING ITS PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS ON STUDENT NUMBER TARGETS FOR 1995-98 IN EARLY 1993.

UNDER EXISTING PROCEDURES, CAPITAL PROPOSALS FROM THE UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS ARE SUBMITTED TO THE UPGC ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. THE UPGC EXAMINES ALL SUCH PROPOSALS CAREFULLY, SEEKING AND RELYING ON THE PROFESSIONAL ADVICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES WHO ACTS AS THE COMMITTEE'S TECHNICAL ADVISER, AND REFERS SUCH PROJECTS AS ARE SUPPORTED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVAL NORMALLY IN TWO STAGES - APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE, WITH VOTING OF FUNDS FOR SITE INVESTIGATION AND PLANNING ONLY, AND FULL APPROVAL.

THE LEVEL OF FUNDING SUPPORTED BY THE UPGC IS BASED ON THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES' PROFESSIONAL ADVICE. THE COMMITMENTS TOTTALLING \$838 MILLION APPROVED FOR THE 11 CAPITAL PROJECTS ON THIS OCCASION REPRESENT SOME 61 PER CENT OF THE AMOUNT SOUGHT BY THE INSTITUTIONS.

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LEGAL ACTION AGAINST FALSE STATEMENT MADE FOR REGISTRATION

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ELECTRICAL WORKERS WISHING TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION AS ELECTRICAL WORKERS UNDER THE ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE ARE ADVISED NOT TO MAKE FALSE STATEMENT OR SUBMIT FORGED DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THEIR QUALIFICATIONS IN THEIR APPLICATIONS OR ELSE THEY WOULD FACE LEGAL ACTION.

THE REMINDER WAS MADE BY THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMSD) TODAY (FRIDAY) FOLLOWING A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH A MAN WAS CONVICTED FOR SUBMITTING FORGED DOCUMENT FOR APPLICATION BUT WAS DETECTED AFTER VETTING BY THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE COURSE OF REGISTRATION.

THE COURT HEARD THAT THE APPLICANT, LO CHI-KEUNG, HAD CLAIMED THAT HE WAS EMPLOYED BY A LOCAL ENGINEERING COMPANY AS AN ELECTRICIAN.

/BUT IT

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BUT IT WAS LATER CONFIRMED BY THE COMPANY MANAGEMENT THAT LO WAS NEVER EMPLOYED BY THE COMPANY. THE RECOMMENDATION LETTER SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT WAS THUS FOUND TO BE FORGED.

LO WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED AND WAS CHARGED UNDER THE CRIMES ORDINANCE FOR WHICH HE WAS FINED \$4,000 AFTER PLEADING GUILTY IN EASTERN LAW COURT ON FEBRUARY 29.

AN EMSD SPOKESMAN COMMENTED THAT THE CASE WOULD SERVE AS A TIMELY REMINDER FOR POTENTIAL APPLICANTS IN THE CURRENT REGISTRATION EXERCISE OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

THE EXERCISE IS PROMPTED BY THE ENACTMENT OF THE ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE IN MARCH 1990 WHICH PROVIDES THAT ALL ELECTRICAL WORKERS ENGAGED IN ELECTRICAL WORK ON FIXED ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION ARE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED WITH EMSD, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NEW LEGISLATION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT ALL APPLICATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED ALONG WITH THE APPLICATIONS, WOULD BE SCRUTINISED BY THE EMSD.

LEGAL ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST APPLICANTS IF THEY WERE FOUND KNOWINGLY TO HAVE MADE FALSE STATEMENTS IN A MATERIAL PARTICULAR, HE ADDED.

MEANWHILE, FOR ANOTHER PACKAGE OF LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR GAS SAFETY PURPOSES, THE DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO FOR THE FIRST TIME SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING AN OFFENDER TO COURT FOR VIOLATING THE PROVISION SET DOWN IN THE GAS SAFETY REGULATIONS.

THE CASE, WHICH WAS HEARD AT WESTERN MAGISTRACY TODAY, INVOLVED A 19-YEAR-OLD DRIVER, CHEUNG KAM-KEUNG, WHO WAS ARRESTED NEAR MUI WO PIER, LANTAU ON NOVEMBER 17 LAST YEAR FOR CARRYING 35 LIQUID PETROLEUM GAS CYLINDERS IN A GOODS VEHICLE, WITHOUT A VALID PERMIT GRANTED UNDER GAS SAFETY (GAS SUPPLY) REGULATIONS.

THE DEFENDANT PLEADED GUILTY AND WAS FINED \$600.

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INTEREST IN MUSIC AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE PROMOTED

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THE MUSIC OFFICE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE IN HONG KONG BY PROMOTING INTEREST IN MUSIC AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LIONS CLUB HONG KONG (HOST) LUNCHEON MEETING, MR SO SAID THE MUSIC OFFICE HAD GROOMED A NUMBER OF REMARKABLY TALENTED YOUNG MUSICIANS SUCH AS MISS YIP WING-SIE AND MR IVAN CHAN THROUGH ITS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING.

/MOREOVER, IT

MOREOVER, IT HAD ALSO ENABLED NUMEROUS YOUNG PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE MUSIC, THUS ENRICHING THEIR LIFE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOMS.

"IN THE PAST 14 YEARS, THE MUSIC OFFICE HAS ORGANISED MUSIC TRAINING CLASSES FOR ABOUT 13,000 YOUNG PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN SIX AND 23," MR SO SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE MUSIC OFFICE MANAGED AND TRAINED 22 YOUNG ORCHESTRAS, BANDS AND CHOIRS THUS PROVIDING DISCIPLINED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE.

IN ADDITION, THE OFFICE MOUNTED SOME 5,300 "MUSIC FOR THE MILLIONS" CONCERTS FOR ABOUT THREE MILLION PEOPLE UP TO THE END OF LAST YEAR.

EVERY YEAR, THE MUSIC OFFICE ORGANISED THE HONG KONG YOUTH CHINESE MUSIC FESTIVAL, THE YOUTH STRING FESTIVAL, BAND FESTIVAL AND MUSIC CAMP.

RENOWNED OVERSEAS MUSICIANS OR OVERSEAS YOUNG MUSICIANS WERE INVITED TO HELP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL MUSICAL CAPABILITIES AND TO FOSTER INTERNATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE THROUGH MUSIC, MR SO ADDED.

"THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL SEND A CHILDREN CHOIR AND A SMALL GROUP OF THE CHINESE ORCHESTRA TO CANADA IN SEPTEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HONG KONG FESTIVAL THERE," MR SO SAID.

MR SO SAID COMMERCIAL SPONSORSHIP HAD GIVEN A LOT OF MOMENTUM IN PROMOTING ARTS AND CULTURE.

HE SAID FUNDS FROM COMMERCIAL SPONSORSHIP HAD IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF PROGRAMME PRODUCTION AND ENHANCED THE PUBLICITY EFFECT.

"MORE IMPORTANTLY, THROUGH SPONSORSHIP, COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS CAN DIRECTLY TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN CULTURE AND ARTS PROMOTION," MR SO SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT IN ARTS AND CULTURE WOULD NOT BE SUBSTITUTED BY COMMERCIAL SPONSORSHIP.

"INDEED BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL BE WORKING TOWARDS A PARTNERSHIP AND WILL PROMOTE CULTURE HAND-IN-HAND," MR SO SAID.

ONEROUS TASK FOR CSD STAFF

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THE TASK OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STAFF IN THE YEARS AHEAD WOULD PROBABLY BECOME MORE ONEROUS, THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR JOHN MARCH, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A CORRECTIONAL SERVICES PASSING-OUT PARADE IN STANLEY, MR MARCH SAID ALREADY THERE HAD BEEN AN UPSURGE IN THE CRIME RATE OVER THE PAST YEARS, PARTICULARLY AS MANY OFFENDERS DID NOT HESITATE TO USE VIOLENCE.

"HONG KONG NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF A HUMANE, DISCIPLINED AND WELL-TRAINED CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT IT HAS, AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE THAT SUPPORT," MR MARCH SAID.

HE TOLD THE GRADUATING GROUP THAT THEY HAD JOINED A FIRST-CLASS DEPARTMENT WITH A FINE TRADITION AND AN EXCELLENT AND ENVIUS REPUTATION WORLDWIDE.

"BEING IN A DISCIPLINED SERVICE MYSELF, I FULLY REALISE THE ACCOUNTABILITY PROBLEM AND EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TASK YOU NOW HAVE IN LOOKING AFTER SOME 35,000 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS HELD IN OVERCROWDED DETENTION CENTRES.

"AT THE SAME TIME, YOU HAVE YOUR TRADITIONAL ROLE AS CUSTODIANS OF SOME 11,000 OFFENDERS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THOSE OFFENDERS.

"I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN, AND STILL AM, GREATLY IMPRESSED BY THE ADMIRABLE STANDARDS ACHIEVED IN THESE INSTITUTIONS AND BY THE DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT OF THE STAFF," HE ADDED.

MR MARCH SAID THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT CALLED FOR SERVICE IN REMOTE AREAS, UNSOCIAL WORKING HOURS, DISRUPTION OF NORMAL FAMILY LIFE AND IT ALSO REQUIRED PATIENCE, DILIGENCE, INTEGRITY AND COMMITMENT.

"DESPITE THIS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SUCCEEDED IN MAINTAINING COMPLETELY HIGH STANDARDS," MR MARCH SAID.

MR MARCH PRAISED THE SUCCESS OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES. HE SAID THESE ACTIVITIES HAD AN IMPORTANT DUAL ROLE IN KEEPING PRISONERS GAINFULLY EMPLOYED AND IN SAVING TAXPAYERS' MONEY BY PRODUCING A WIDE RANGE OF GOODS AND SERVICES.

ON PARADE TODAY WERE 156 ASSISTANT OFFICERS WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED THE BASIC TRAINING AT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE.

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TENDER FOR SLOPE STABILISATION WORKS IN
NGAU CHI WAN
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THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SLOPE STABILISATION WORKS AT A BORROW AREA IN NGAU CHI WAN.

A NOTICE OF THE TENDER WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

WORKS UNDER THE CONTRACT WILL INCLUDE THE STABILISATION OF A PREVIOUSLY FAILED AREA WITH ROCK FILL AND THE FLATTENING OF THE EXISTING SLOPES TO MEET CURRENT STABILITY STANDARD.

THEY WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE BACKFILLING OF THE EROSION GULLIES AT THE PLATFORM AND THE PROVISION OF SURFACE DRAINAGE CHANNELS AND HYDROSEEDING TO THE FINISHED SLOPE.

THE WORKS ARE SCHEDULED TO START IN MAY THIS YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF CHIEF GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER/DESIGN, GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING, 101 PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, KOWLOON.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS NOON, MARCH 27.

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TUEN MUN FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY
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THE TUEN MUN FIGHT CRIME AND ANTI-NARCOTICS CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (MARCH 8) AT THE TUEN MUN CULTURE AND RECREATION SQUARE OUTSIDE THE TUEN MUN TOWN HALL.

THE CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 11 AM AND 5 PM. ADMISSION IS FREE AND ALL RESIDENTS IN THE AREA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

IN ADDITION TO A HOST OF SPECIALLY DESIGNED GAME STALLS, THERE WILL BE POP SINGING, HANDICRAFT ILLUSTRATION, PERFORMANCE BY POLICE DOGS, AND AN EXHIBITION ON DRUGS AND FIGHT CRIME MATERIALS.

WINNERS OF THE ANTI-TRIAD SLOGAN WRITING COMPETITION, THE ANTI-TRIAD COLOURING COMPETITION, THE HEALTHY YOUTHS AWARD AND THE MODEL CITIZENS SCHEME WILL BE PRESENTED WITH PRIZES AND SOUVENIRS AT THE FUN FAIR.

A FREE SHUTTLE BUS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE RESIDENTS FROM VARIOUS AREAS IN THE DISTRICT TO THE VENUE.

/THE CARNIVAL

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THE CARNIVAL IS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE TO PUT ACROSS ANTI-CRIME AND ANTI-DRUG MESSAGES.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING WILL BE MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR JUSTEIN WONG; THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER LEUNG; AND THE POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR WILLIAM NICHOLSON.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CARNIVAL.

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FIGHT CRIME VARIETY SHOW IN NORTH DISTRICT

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POPULAR SINGERS WILL PERFORM AT A VARIETY SHOW IN NORTH DISTRICT TOMORROW (SATURDAY) EVENING TO HELP SPREAD THE FIGHT CRIME AND ANTI-NARCOTICS MESSAGES.

THE NORTH DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME AND ANTI-NARCOTICS VARIETY SHOW, TO BE HELD AT THE FANLING RECREATION GROUND, BETWEEN 8 PM AND 10 PM, IS SPONSORED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD, THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

"THE TWO-HOUR ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE IN 1991-92," THE COMMITTEE'S CHAIRMAN, MR TAO MAN-KWONG, SAID.

"ABOUT 20,000 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE SHOW WHICH WILL BE PRODUCED BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG. ADMISSION IS FREE," HE SAID.

SINGERS WILL INCLUDE MR ANDY LAU, MISS LAM YICK-LIN, MR CHEUNG LAP-KI AND MISS LAU MEI-KWAN.

COMPERES WILL BE DISC JOCKEYS MR FUNG WAI-TONG, MISS CHIN PUI-HING AND FILM STAR MISS YIP YUK-HING. THE SHOW WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON RADIO 1.

PRIOR TO THE SHOW, PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED TO RECIPIENTS OF THE NORTH DISTRICT GOOD CITIZEN AWARD.

OMELCO MEMBER MR ANDREW WONG WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

/OTHER GUESTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1992

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OTHER GUESTS WILL INCLUDE THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PO PUI-LEONG; THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR RAYMOND PANG; THE REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG; THE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF HEUNG YEE KUK, MR LIU CHING-LEUNG; AND THE FRONTIER POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR MICHAEL WATSON.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE NORTH DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME AND ANTI-NARCOTICS VARIETY SHOW TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT 8 PM AT THE FANLING RECREATION GROUND. THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 7 PM.

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APPLICATIONS FOR DRIVING AND VEHICLE LICENCES BY POST OVERWHELMING
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED IN RECENT WEEKS A LARGE NUMBER OF POSTAL APPLICATIONS FOR DRIVING AND VEHICLE LICENCES WHICH THE DEPARTMENT WILL NEED ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO PROCESS.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT DUE TO THE EXTENSIVE USE OF POSTAL SERVICE, THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY POST SINCE MID FEBRUARY AMOUNTED TO ABOUT 600 PER DAY, COMPARING TO AN AVERAGE OF BELOW 200 FOR A NORMAL DAY.

"FOR THE SINGLE DAY OF MARCH 3, THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED 2,200 APPLICATIONS THROUGH THE MAIL," HE SAID.

"WHILE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT'S LICENSING OFFICES HAVE BEEN WORKING OVERTIME TO CLEAR THE OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE GENERAL PROCESSING TIME REQUIRED FOR APPLICATIONS SENT IN BY POST WILL HAVE TO BE EXTENDED FROM THE NORMAL 10 DAYS TO ABOUT THREE WEEKS."

HE REMINDED POSTAL APPLICANTS THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO MAKE ENQUIRY ABOUT THEIR APPLICATIONS WITHIN THREE WEEKS FROM THEIR APPLICATION DATE WHILE THE DEPARTMENT IS DOING ITS BEST TO HAVE THESE APPLICATIONS PROCESSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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LAND TO BE RESUMED IN TA KWU LING

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME LAND IN TA KWU LING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LEACHATE TREATMENT PLANT FOR THE NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL.

LOCATED NEAR HA HEUNG YUEN, THE LAND COMPRISES 69 PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 37,766.3 SQUARE METRES.

THE LAND WILL BE REVERTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EXPIRY OF THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF POSTING OF NOTICES ON THE LOTS.

DETAILS OF THE RESUMPTION WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

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SPECIAL SCHOOL TO BE BUILT AT LEI KING WAN

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AT LEI KING WAN, HONG KONG.

WORKS ON THE PROJECT ARE EXPECTED TO START IN JUNE AND WILL TAKE ABOUT A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

THE WORKS WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-STORY SPECIAL SCHOOL TO ACCOMMODATE 80 SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN WITH BOARDING FACILITIES FOR 60.

THE SCHOOL PREMISES WILL HAVE 10 GENERAL CLASSROOMS, FOUR SPECIAL CLASSROOMS AND FOUR PARA MEDICAL ROOMS.

THE BOARDING SECTION WILL COMPRISE SEVEN BEDROOMS/STUDY ROOMS IN ADDITION TO WARDEN'S QUARTERS AND STAFF BARRACKS.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO FACILITATE THE EASY MOVEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH THE PROVISION OF WIDE AND OPEN CORRIDORS, ADEQUATE RAMPS AND A LIFT.

MEANWHILE, TENDERS ARE ALSO INVITED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DISPENSARY AT FANLING HOSPITAL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WITH WORKS SCHEDULED TO START NEXT MONTH.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE TWO PROJECTS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON, MARCH 27.

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GOVT TO BUILD NEW CARPARK IN TUEN MUN

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO BUILD A CARPARK IN AREA 30A IN TUEN MUN AS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN.

THE PROPOSED PROJECT ALSO INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS AND FOOTWAYS.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL WERE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN OF THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES DURING OFFICE HOURS:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TUEN MUN, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 6TH FLOOR, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES, AND
- * THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE WORKS OR THE USE IS REQUIRED TO ADDRESS HIS OBJECTION TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NOT LATER THAN MAY 5 DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL.

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WATER SUPPLY SUSPENSION IN YUEN LONG

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SUPPLY OF FRESH AND SALT WATER TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN PING SHAN, YUEN LONG IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON SUNDAY (MARCH 8) TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS CONNECTION WORKS.

IT WILL AFFECT SAN HEI TSUEN STREET, PING FUK LANE, SAN FU STREET, PING TONG STREET EAST, PING TONG STREET SOUTH, PING TONG STREET WEST, PING TONG STREET NORTH, FU SHA WAI LANE AND TONG YAN SAN TSUEN.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	DATE -----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	5.3.92	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	6.3.92	-40
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+40
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.3 *-0.1* 6.3.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.26 PCT	21 MONTHS	2311	6.25	100.30	6.15
1 MONTH	4.01 PCT	24 MONTHS	2402	5.50	98.89	6.21
3 MONTHS	3.98 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.21 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.74 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 4,037 MN

CLOSED 6 MARCH 1992

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