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STATEMENT ON AIRPORT TALKS

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA INQUIRIES ABOUT REMARKS MADE IN PEKING TODAY (SATURDAY) BY MR LU PING ON THE AIRPORT TALKS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

"WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE FULL STATEMENT MADE BY MR LU PING TODAY CONCERNING THE AIRPORT TALKS, SO WE CANNOT COMMENT IN DETAIL; BUT WE CAN RESPOND TO MR LU'S GENERAL REMARKS.

"AS BOTH SIDES ARE WELL AWARE, THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS FOR THE AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN ESSENTIAL PART OF A FINANCING AGREEMENT FOR THE TWO PROJECTS. COPIES OF THE DRAFT DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN WITH THE CHINESE SIDE FOR MANY MONTHS. SO ANY SUGGESTION THAT WE ARE INTRODUCING NEW ISSUES INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS IS NOT CORRECT.

"IN ADDITION, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS ARE FULLY IN LINE WITH THE BASIC AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE CHINESE SIDE ON THE $60.3 BILLION EQUITY AND THE $23 BILLION DEBT. THAT UNDERLINES THE POINT THAT WE ARE PROPOSING NOTHING NEW.

"WE WANT TO BRING THESE MATTERS A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION AND, AS WE SAID ON THURSDAY, WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT EXPERTS FROM BOTH SIDES SHOULD MEET SOON."

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MEDIA URGED TO HELP LAUNCH FAIR ELECTION

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION, MR JUSTICE WOO KWOK-HING, TODAY (SATURDAY) APPEALED TO BROADCASTERS AND PUBLISHERS TO HELP LAUNCH AN OPEN, FAIR AND TRUSTWORTHY ELECTION.

MR WOO WAS SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ON REPORTING ON ELECTIONS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION.

HE SAID THE MEDIA SHOULD GIVE CANDIDATES, BOTH INDEPENDENT AND WITH POLITICAL AFFILIATION, EQUAL, FAIR AND CONSISTENT TREATMENT OF COVERAGE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ELECTION CAMPAIGNING WOULD BE CONDUCTED EQUALLY AND FAIRLY.

HE SAID THE COMMISSION HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED COMPLAINTS ON SOME MEDIA ORGANISATIONS THAT THEY WERE GIVING UNFAIR ADVANTAGE TO CERTAIN CANDIDATES OR POLITICAL PARTIES, THUS CREATING A SITUATION OF UNFAIR ELECTION CAMPAIGNING.

"THE COMMISSION IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THESE CASES WHICH ARE VIOLATING THE PRINCIPLE OF A FAIR ELECTION," HE SAID.

MR WOO ALSO SAID IF A COMPLAINT OF UNEQUAL TREATMENT WAS SUBSTANTIATED, THE COMMISSION MIGHT MAKE A DENUNCIATION OR CENSURE IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE THE NAMES OF THE CANDIDATES FAVOURABLY AND UNFAVOURABLY TREATED AND THE MEDIA CONCERNED.

/IF THE .....

IF THE CASE INVOLVED A BROADCASTER, THE COMMISSION MAY REFER THE MATTER TO THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

HE SAID THE COMMISSION HAD NO INTENTION TO INTERFERE WITH THE POLITICAL INCLINATION OF A MEDIA ORGANISATION UNDER THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE PRESS AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

"BUT I HOPE THAT THEY CAN TREAT CANDIDATES FAIRLY AND ON EQUAL FOOTING AND REPORT ELECTION NEWS BASED ON ALL FACTUAL ACCOUNTS," HE SAID.

HE SAID A FALSE REPORT MIGHT LEAD TO LIBEL AND EVEN BE PROSECUTED FOR MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT AND MISREPRESENTATION.

THE CHAIRMAN SAID IF A MEDIA ORGANISATION DELIBERATELY PUBLICISED CERTAIN CANDIDATES OR POLITICAL PARTIES, THEN IT MIGHT BE REGARDED AS AN ELECTION ADVERTISEMENT AND HAVING INCURRED ELECTION EXPENSES.

"IT IS AN OFFENCE FOR ANYONE TO INCUR ELECTION EXPENSES UNLESS HE IS A CANDIDATE OR A PERSON AUTHORISED IN WRITING TO DO SO BY A CANDIDATE," HE SAID.

EVEN IF HE IS GIVEN WRITTEN AUTHORISATION BY A CANDIDATE, THE SUM INVOLVED MIGHT BE REGARDED AS DONATIONS AND BE COUNTED AS ELECTION EXPENSES.

SUCH COMPLAINT CASES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE POLICE OR THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION FOR INVESTIGATION AND ACTION, HE ADDED.

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WETTEST JULY ON RECORD

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A TOTAL RAINFALL OF 1,147.2 MILLIMETRES WAS RECORDED LAST MONTH, A ROYAL OBSERVATORY REPORT RELEASED TODAY (SATURDAY) SHOWED, MAKING IT THE HIGHEST FOR THE MONTH OF JULY AND THE SECOND HIGHEST FOR ANY MONTH SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1884.

THE WEATHER WAS UNSETTLED ON MOST DAYS AND THERE WERE 13 DAYS WITH RAINFALL OF OVER 25 MILLIMETRES.

THE MONTH WAS ALSO UNUSUALLY CLOUDY WITH TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE AMOUNTING TO ONLY 136.4 HOURS, THE SECOND LOWEST VALUE FOR JULY.

TORRENTIAL RAIN FELL ON JULY 22 TO 24 WITH A TOTAL OF 611.2 MILLIMETRES RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, THE HIGHEST FOR ANY THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS IN JULY.

THE RAINSTORM BLACK WARNING WAS ISSUED FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR ON JULY 23.

/WITH MONTHLY .....

WITH MONTHLY RAINFALL OVER THREE-AND-A-HALF TIMES THE JULY NORMAL OF 323.5 MILLIMETRES, THE ACCUMULATED RAINFALL IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1994 AMOUNTED TO 1,704.1 MILLIMETRES WHICH WAS 29 PER CENT ABOVE THE NORMAL FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

THE WEATHER WAS FINE FOR THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF JULY. WITH A TROPICAL DEPRESSION DEVELOPING OVER THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, THE WEATHER IN HONG KONG STARTED TO DETERIORATE ON JULY 3.

OUTER RAINBANDS OF THE TROPICAL DEPRESSION AND GUSTY SOUTHEASTERLY WINDS AFFECTED THE TERRITORY FROM JULY 3 TO 5.

THERE WERE SHOWERS AND SUNNY PERIODS FROM JULY 6 TO 8. IT TURNED FINE DURING THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS AS A WEAK RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE BECAME ESTABLISHED OVER THE SOUTH CHINA COAST.

TYPHOON TIM CROSSED THE TAIWAN STRAIT EARLY ON JULY 11, RESULTING IN A HOT CONTINENTAL AIRSTREAM REACHING HONG KONG AND THE MONTH'S HIGHEST TEMPERATURE OF 34.1 DEGREES WAS RECORDED THAT SUNNY AFTERNOON.

TIM MADE LANDFALL OVER FUJIAN AND ITS REMNANT BROUGHT INTENSE AND THUNDERY SHOWERS IN THE EARLY MORNING OF JULY 12.

SOME PARTS OF THE URBAN AREA RECEIVED OVER 90 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN BETWEEN 1 AND 2 AM, NECESSITATING THE BRIEF ISSUANCE OF THE RAINSTORM RED WARNING.

THERE WERE 12 REPORTS OF FLOODING. TEMPERATURES FELL TO THE MONTH'S MINIMUM OF 22.9 DEGREES DURING THE DOWNPOUR.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN UNSTABLE SOUTHWEST MONSOON, THE WEATHER IN HONG KONG REMAINED CLOUDY WITH RAIN IN THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

HOWEVER, IT IMPROVED ON JULY 16 AND THERE WERE SUNNY SPELLS.

GENERALLY FINE WEATHER PREVAILED FROM JULY 17 TO 20 ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME ISOLATED SHOWERS.

AN ACTIVE TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE DEVELOPED OVER THE SOUTH CHINA COAST ON JULY 21, BRINGING VERY UNSETTLED WEATHER TO THE TERRITORY FROM JULY 22 TO 24.

PERSISTENT HEAVY RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS AFFECTED HONG KONG, INFLICTING MANY CASUALTIES AND WIDESPREAD DAMAGE. OVER 380 REPORTS OF FLOODING AND 210 OF LANDSLIPS WERE RECEIVED.

THE HEAVY RAIN ON JULY 22 FELL IN TWO EPISODES, ONE IN THE SMALL HOURS AND THE OTHER IN THE LATE MORNING.

THE RAINSTORM RED WARNING WAS ISSUED ON BOTH OCCASIONS.

ALTOGETHER, MORE THAN 200 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN FELL IN THE URBAN AREAS AND OVER 300 MILLIMETRES WERE RECORDED IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

/AT TAI .....

AT TAI MO SHAN WHERE THE RAIN WAS HEAVIEST, MORE THAN 750 MILLIMETRES WERE RECORDED.

DURING THE RAINSTORM, ONE PERSON WAS KILLED AND 17 OTHERS INJURED.

THREE HUNDRED HECTARES OF FARMLAND AND 150 HECTARES OF FISH PONDS WERE FLOODED. FOUR OLD HOUSES IN YUEN LONG COLLAPSED. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY WAS CUT OFF IN PARTS OF TAI PO, TSUEN WAN AND YUEN LONG.

FOUR THOUSAND FAMILIES WERE AFFECTED. THE RAIN STOPPED FOR A BRIEF PERIOD DURING THE NIGHT.

TORRENTIAL RAIN FELL AGAIN BETWEEN 4 AND 6 AM ON JULY 23 AND OVER 100 MILLIMETRES WERE CONCENTRATED IN THE URBAN AREAS NECESSITATING THE ISSUANCE OF THE RAINSTORM RED WARNING FOLLOWED BY THE RAINSTORM BLACK WARNING.

RAIN BECAME LESS INTENSE DURING THE DAY. AMONG THE MANY REPORTED INCIDENTS, THE MOST DISASTROUS ONE WAS THE COLLAPSE OF A RETAINING WALL AT THE KWUN LUNG LAU ESTATE BUILDING IN KENNEDY TOWN WHERE FIVE PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND THREE OTHERS WERE INJURED, AND 2,000 FAMILIES HAD TO BE EVACUATED.

HEAVY RAIN CONTINUED THROUGHOUT JULY 24 AND OVER 100 MILLIMETRES WERE ADDED TO THE TALLY CAUSING MORE FLOODING AND LANDSLIP INCIDENTS.

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE STILL PERIODS OF RAIN ON JULY 25, BOTH THE INTENSITY AND TOTAL AMOUNT WERE LESS THAN THE THREE PREVIOUS DAYS.

AS THE TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE MOVED SOUTH GRADUALLY INTO THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, RAIN BEGAN TO EASE OFF ON JULY 26. APART FROM SOME HEAVY SHOWERS ON JULY 28, A MAINLY FINE SPELL LASTED UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH.

THERE WERE NINE TROPICAL CYCLONES OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN JULY 1994.

TWENTY AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED IN THE MONTH AS A RESULT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER.

DETAILS ON THE ISSUANCE/HOISTING AND CANCELLATION/LOWERING OF VARIOUS WARNING/SIGNALS IN THE MONTH ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.1. MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

/TABLE 1.1 .....

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN JULY 1994

WARNINGS / SIGNALS	EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME
RAINSTORM WARNINGS	
RED	JUL 12 2.00 AM - JUL 12 3.30 AM
	JUL 22 2.30 AM - JUL 22 5.45 AM
	JUL 22 10.35 AM - JUL 22 6.30 PM
	JUL 23 4.55 AM - JUL 23 5.50 AM
BLACK	JUL 23 5.50 AM - JUL 23 10.50 AM
LANDSLIP WARNING	JUL 22 3.00 AM - JUL 26 10.00 AM
FLOOD WARNINGS	JUL 11 11.20 PM - JUL 12 3.30 AM
	JUL 14 5.15 AM - JUL 14 7.00 AM
	JUL 22 1.30 AM - JUL 22 8.45 PM
	JUL 23 12.45 AM - JUL 23 12.15 PM
	JUL 23 7.15 PM - JUL 24 5.45 AM
	JUL 24 11.30 AM - JUL 25 7.00 AM
	JUL 25 11.50 AM - JUL 25 3.00 PM
THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS	JUL 2 3.10 PM - JUL 2 5.10 PM
	JUL 3 1.00 PM - JUL 3 4.00 PM
	JUL 3 11.00 PM - JUL 4 6.00 AM
	JUL 4 9.35 PM - JUL 4 11.35 PM
	JUL 5 2.50 PM - JUL 5 8.50 PM
	JUL 8 3.10 AM - JUL 8 5.10 AM
	JUL 8 8.25 AM - JUL 8 1.25 PM
	JUL 11 9.00 PM - JUL 12 8.00 AM
	JUL 13 5.00 PM - JUL 13 7.00 PM
	JUL 13 9.00 PM - JUL 13 11.00 PM
	JUL 14 5.15 AM - JUL 14 7.15 AM
	JUL 15 12.05 AM - JUL 15 2.05 AM
	JUL 15 2.30 AM - JUL 15 8.00 AM
	JUL 15 10.25 AM - JUL 15 11.25 AM
	JUL 15 11.50 AM - JUL 15 3.30 PM
	JUL 15 5.00 PM - JUL 15 7.00 PM
	JUL 16 9.50 PM - JUL 16 11.50 PM
	JUL 17 12.20 PM - JUL 17 2.20 PM
	JUL 20 9.55 AM - JUL 20 1.30 PM
	JUL 20 4.55 PM - JUL 20 6.55 PM
	JUL 21 7.05 AM - JUL 21 NOON
	JUL 21 7.10 PM - JUL 22 4.00 PM
	JUL 22 5.00 PM - JUL 22 8.00 PM
	JUL 22 10.25 PM - JUL 23 1.25 PM
	JUL 23 6.45 PM - JUL 24 6.00 PM
	JUL 24 9.45 PM - JUL 25 9.30 AM
	JUL 25 10.40 AM - JUL 25 3.00 PM
	JUL 27 2.15 PM - JUL 27 4.15 PM

/TABLE 1.2 .....

TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - JULY 1994

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	136.4 HOURS; 94.7 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	12.38 MJ/SQ M; 5.87 MJ/SQ M BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	1,147.2 MM; 823.7 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN CLOUD AMOUNT	78 PER CENT; 13 PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	86 PER CENT; 6 PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	30.4 DEGREES CELSIUS; 1.1 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	27.9 DEGREES CELSIUS; 0.9 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	25.8 DEGREES CELSIUS; 0.8 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	25.3 DEGREES CELSIUS; 0.4 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	92.4 MM; 79.2 MM BELOW NORMAL

REMARKS: ALL MEASUREMENTS WERE MADE AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY EXCEPT SUNSHINE, SOLAR RADIATION AND EVAPORATION WHICH WERE RECORDED AT KING'S PARK.

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PDB APPOINTS COMMERCIAL ADVISER

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A FORMER MASTER MARINER WITH WIDE EXPERIENCE OF CONTAINER PORT OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG AND CHINA HAS JOINED THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD AS COMMERCIAL ADVISER.

IN HIS NEW ROLE MR PETER FREDERICK GLASS WILL DETERMINE WHAT PORT FACILITIES HONG KONG NEEDS, TAKING ACCOUNT OF COMPETITION FROM CHINESE PORTS.

HE WILL OVERSEE AND CO-ORDINATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE FACILITIES BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND WILL DEVELOP A PORT PROMOTION PROGRAMME.

HE WILL ALSO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE ORGANISATIONAL, COMMERCIAL, ECONOMIC AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPING NEW PORT FACILITIES AND MANAGE AND CO-ORDINATE THE PORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

/MR GLASS .....

MR GLASS HAS WIDE EXPERIENCE OF DEVELOPING CONTAINER PORT PROJECTS, BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS.

FROM 1987, UNTIL HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT, HE WAS PROJECT MANAGER FOR MODERN TERMINALS LIMITED IN HONG KONG.

IN THAT POST HE NEGOTIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR ON THE AWARDS FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL 7, 8 AND 9 AND THE INTEGRATION OF TERMINAL 2 AS PART OF THE TERMINAL 6 AWARD.

HE PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON TERMINAL 8 AND 9 AND TOOK PART IN PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR TERMINAL 10 AND 11 ON LANTAU.

FROM 1985 TO 1987 HE WAS ADVISER TO THE GENERAL MANAGER AND DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF NOZESCO IN ZHUHAI, SOUTHERN CHINA. THAT POST WAS CREATED TO OVERSEE THE START-UP OF JIUZHOU PORT.

MR GLASS LIAISED BETWEEN THE CONTRACTORS, DRAGAGES ET TRAVAUXS PUBLIQUES AND THE CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES DURING PORT CONSTRUCTION. HE ALSO HELPED THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES PLAN PORT PROCEDURES AND OPERATION METHODS.

BEFORE MOVING TO CHINA HE WAS CONSULTANT/ADVISER TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF KING FAHD INDUSTRIAL PORT IN JUBAIL FROM 1981 TO 1985.

MR GLASS GAINED HIS MASTER MARINER'S CERTIFICATE IN 1960 AND THE CITY OF LONDON COLLEGE/UK CHAMBER OF SHIPPING DIPLOMA IN 1966.

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LAND REGISTRY ANNOUNCES ENHANCED PERFORMANCE PLEDGES

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THE LAND REGISTRY (LR) TODAY (SATURDAY) ANNOUNCES NEW PERFORMANCE PLEDGES FOR THE YEAR AND THE RESULTS OF ITS FIRST YEAR'S PERFORMANCE AGAINST SERVICE TARGETS.

THE LAND REGISTRAR, MR KENNETH PANG TSAN-WING, SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW PLEDGES WERE TARGETTED AT IMPROVING SERVICES TO CUSTOMERS.

"AS AN ON-GOING COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING SERVICES, THE LR HAS SET HIGHER PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THIS YEAR.

"FOR EXAMPLE, THE SERVICE TIME FOR REGISTRATION OF DOCUMENTS IS REDUCED FROM 26 TO 22 WORKING DAYS AND THAT FOR CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS FROM EIGHT TO SIX WORKING DAYS.

"TO ENSURE THAT OUR PERFORMANCE IS EFFECTIVELY MONITORED AND OUR SERVICES ARE MEETING CUSTOMERS' NEEDS, THREE CUSTOMERS LIAISON GROUPS WHICH PROVIDE THE REGISTRY WITH VERY USEFUL FEEDBACK AND CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED," HE SAID.

THE LR ALSO PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS ON CUSTOMER RELATIONS.

/A POST .....

A POST OF CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER HAS BEEN CREATED AND A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER, NAMELY, THE "LAND REGISTRY NEWS" HAS BEEN PUBLISHED TO UPDATE ITS CLIENTS ON THE REGISTRY'S CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND NEW SERVICES.

"THE REGISTRY HAS SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED ITS PERFORMANCE TARGETS AND FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF ITS OPERATION AS A TRADING FUND.

"IT HAS ALSO BEEN MAKING GREAT STRIDES IN INTRODUCING IMPROVED AND NEW SERVICES TO ITS CUSTOMERS.

"FOR THE THREE MAJOR SERVICES: NAMELY, REGISTRATION OF DOCUMENTS, SEARCH OF LAND REGISTERS AND SUPPLY OF COPIES OF RECORDS, THE ACHIEVEMENT RATES WERE OVER 94 PER CENT," MR PANG ADDED.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REGISTRY'S ENHANCED PERFORMANCE PLEDGES COINCIDES WITH THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAND REGISTRY TRADING FUND WHICH COMMENCED OPERATION ON AUGUST 1 LAST YEAR.

EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE REGISTRY ANNOUNCED THE LAUNCHING OF A NEW LAND SEARCH FACILITY, CALLED THE "DIRECT ACCESS SERVICES", WHICH ENABLES CUSTOMERS TO MAKE ON-LINE ACCESS TO THE URBAN LAND REGISTERS THROUGH THEIR OWN COMPUTERS AT THEIR OWN OFFICES WITHOUT CALLING AT THE REGISTRY'S OFFICES.

THE INITIAL RESPONSE TO THIS NEW SERVICE FROM POTENTIAL CLIENTS WAS ENCOURAGING.

THE REGISTRY'S NEW PERFORMANCE PLEDGES ARE SET OUT IN A PAMPHLET PUBLISHED TODAY (SATURDAY).

ANOTHER INFORMATION LEAFLET CONCERNING THE LAND REGISTRY TRADING FUND AND ITS EXISTING AND NEW SERVICES HAS ALSO BEEN PRODUCED.

COPIES OF THESE PAMPHLETS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AT ALL LR OFFICES AND THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION DISTRICT OFFICES.

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OVER 4,500 OFFERED COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING

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MORE THAN 4,500 PEOPLE HAVE THEIR LIVING ENVIRONMENT IMPROVED IN THE 1993/94 FINANCIAL YEAR BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING SCHEME, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

THESE PEOPLE, INVOLVED IN A TOTAL OF 2,329 CASES, HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED TO THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT FOR CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS.

"THE COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING SCHEME IS AIMED TO HELP INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WITH GENUINE, IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM HOUSING NEEDS.

/"THEY MAY .....

"THEY MAY EITHER BE PERSONS WITH POOR HEALTH AND DISABILITIES, OR VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ELDERLY WELFARE RECIPIENTS LIVING IN CROWDED BEDSPACE APARTMENT WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED FOR RECOMMENDATION FOR REHOUSING. SOCIAL HANDICAPPED PEOPLE WHO ARE FACING PRESSURES OF UNSUITABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE CONSIDERED AS WELL.

"THE APPLICANTS SHOULD NORMALLY HAVE FINANCIAL MEANS LOWER THAN THE INCOME LIMITS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING APPLICANTS AND FULFIL OTHER RESIDENCE QUALIFICATIONS LAID DOWN BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

CASEWORKERS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND SOME NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IDENTIFY CASES DURING THEIR DAILY WORK AND RECOMMEND THEM FOR COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING.

NEEDY INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES MAY MAKE DIRECT ENQUIRIES TO THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE ON 343 2255.

HOWEVER, HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING WAS ONLY ONE OF THE VIABLE SOLUTIONS TO HOUSING PROBLEMS. OTHER ASSISTANCE, SUCH AS HOSTEL PLACEMENT AND FINANCIAL GRANTS, WOULD BE ARRANGED IF APPROPRIATE, HE ADDED.

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SAFETY PLEA ON ELECTRICITY USAGE

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THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR TONG KIN-WAH, URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE SAFE USE OF ELECTRICITY.

MR TONG MADE THE APPEAL WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND APPLIANCES TRADE WORKERS' UNION THIS (SATURDAY) EVENING.

HE NOTED THAT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, SIX PERSONS HAD DIED AND NINE OTHERS SERIOUSLY INJURED IN ACCIDENTS INVOLVING ELECTRICITY, WITH MOST OF THESE ACCIDENTS OCCURRING AT WORKPLACES.

"IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE SAFE USE OF ELECTRICITY, THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED THE ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE IN 1990 AND SUBSEQUENTLY OTHER SAFETY CODE OF PRACTICES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PEOPLE ENGAGED IN ELECTRICAL WORK TO OBSERVE.

"THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMSD) ALSO INTRODUCED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR A POINT SYSTEM TO MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE OF REGISTERED ELECTRICAL WORKERS AND CONTRACTORS," HE ADDED.

MR TONG FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAD, SINCE THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, ISSUED LETTERS TO 53 ELECTRICAL WORKERS WARNING THEM THAT THEIR WORKS WERE NOT UP TO THE REQUIRED SAFETY STANDARD.

/APART FROM .....

APART FROM FORMULATING LEGISLATION AND INTRODUCING THE POINT SYSTEM, THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO STEPPED UP INSPECTIONS OF ELECTRICAL FACILITIES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES AND FACTORIES, HE SAID.

"IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, EMSD HAD CONDUCTED ABOUT 2,800 INSPECTIONS RELATING TO ELECTRICITY SAFETY.

"THE OPERATORS WOULD BE ASKED TO IMPROVE ANY ELECTRICAL FACILITIES NOT CONFORMING WITH SAFETY REQUIREMENTS," MR TONG STRESSED.

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YOUNG MUSICIANS TO TOUR BEIJING AND TIANJIN

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EIGHTY MUSICIANS OF THE 1994 HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA UNDER THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH LEFT FOR BEIJING THIS (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON ON A 10-DAY TOUR IN CHINA.

UNDER THE BATON OF ITS MUSIC CONDUCTOR, MR LUI KI-LING, THE ORCHESTRA WILL PERFORM A SERIES OF CONCERTS IN BEIJING AND TIANJIN, INCLUDING PERFORMANCES IN THE BEIJING CONCERT HALL AND TIANJIN BISSHU THEATRE.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE TOUR IS PARTLY TO PROMOTE FRIENDSHIP AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN YOUNG MUSICIANS IN THE TWO PLACES AND PARTLY TO BROADEN THEIR EXPERIENCE.

MR LUI SAID THE REPERTOIRE OF THE ORCHESTRA WOULD INCLUDE FAMOUS PIECES FROM WESTERN AND CHINESE COMPOSERS.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE DVORAK'S "SYMPHONY NO. 8 IN G MAJOR, OP. 88", TCHAIKOVSKY'S "VARIATIONS ON A ROCOCO THEME, OP. 33" AND CHAN WING-WAH'S "EXPOSE FOR ORCHESTRA".

MEMBERS OF THE 1994 HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CHINA TOUR ARE AGED FROM 11 TO 21.

THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WAS FORMED IN 1978 TO PROVIDE ORCHESTRAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG INSTRUMENTALISTS.

SINCE THEN THEY HAVE BEEN RECEIVING TAILOR-MADE INTENSIVE TRAINING AND HAVE JUST COMPLETED A TRAINING PROGRAMME IN THE 1994 HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC CAMP.

THEY HAVE GIVEN OVERSEAS PERFORMANCES IN SINGAPORE AND THE UNITED STATES IN RECENT YEARS.

THE GROUP WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON AUGUST 22.

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/11 .....

FRESH WATER CUT IN WESTERN DISTRICT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (AUGUST 15) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WATERMAINS LEAKAGE DETECTION.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE LOCATED AT 129-158A CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST, 176-278 AND 155-285 DES VOEUX ROAD WEST, 239-353 QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, 1A-23 EASTERN STREET, MUI FONG STREET, KWAI HEUNG STREET, SUNG HING LANE, 2-40 AND 7-25 CENTRE STREET, SAI YUEN LANE, 1-11 KI LING LANE, 1-19 AND 2-22 CHUNG CHING LANE AS WELL AS 2-22 WESTERN STREET.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE ($ MILLION)
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,775	0930	+445
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,744	1000	+445
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+445
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+445	1200	+445
LAF TODAY	-1,476	1500	

LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER TWI 122.7 *+0.0* 13.8.94

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TWO COMPANIES APPOINTED TO HANDLE SPEEDPOST

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THE POST OFFICE HAS APPOINTED KLM ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES AND NEDERLANDSE PAKKET DIENST B V TO UNDERTAKE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND DELIVERY OF SPEEDPOST ITEMS RESPECTIVELY IN THE NETHERLANDS WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY).

HE SAID THE APPOINTMENTS FOLLOWED DECISIONS BY THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE NETHERLANDS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE INTERNATIONAL POSTAL EMS NETWORK (KNOWN AS SPEEDPOST IN HONG KONG) AND TO TERMINATE ITS OBLIGATIONS TO OTHER POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS TO DELIVER EMS ITEMS WITHIN ITS TERRITORIES AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

MR PAGLIARI ADDED THAT THE TWO COMPANIES WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION AFTER A RIGOROUS SELECTION PROCESS.

"THEIR SERVICES HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY TESTED BY THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE AND FOUND TO BE BOTH SATISFACTORY AND RELIABLE," HE SAID.

THE POST OFFICE IS CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE CURRENTLY PROVIDED TO SPEEDPOST ITEMS DESTINED FOR THE NETHERLANDS.

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RESERVOIR FISHING SEASON TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH

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ANGLERS WISHING TO INDULGE THEIR PASTIME IN LOCAL RESERVOIRS DURING THE COMING FISHING SEASON MAY APPLY FOR A LICENCE FROM THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, STARTING TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE NEXT FISHING SEASON IN RESERVOIRS WILL BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 1.

THOSE WHO WISH TO APPLY CAN CALL AT THE CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF IMMIGRATION TOWER, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

APPLICATIONS CAN ALSO BE MADE AT THE GROUND FLOOR OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MAINLAND DEPOT AT THE JUNCTION OF SAI YEE STREET AND ARGYLE STREET IN MONG KOK, CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRES ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF NGAU TAU KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 21, ON WAH STREET AND ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF PERFECT MOUNT GARDENS IN PO MAN STREET, SHAU KEI WAN.

APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND PAY A LICENCE FEE OF $20. A LICENCE WOULD NORMALLY BE ISSUED IMMEDIATELY UPON SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION.

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APPLICATIONS CAN ALSO BE MADE BY POST TO THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AT IMMIGRATION TOWER, GIVING THE APPLICANT'S NAME, ADDRESS, PHOTOCOPY OF HIS IDENTITY CARD, TOGETHER WITH A CROSSED CHEQUE FOR $20 PAYABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

A LICENCE WILL THEN BE SENT TO THE APPLICANT BY ORDINARY MAIL. A LICENCE WILL NOT BE ISSUED TO PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 13.

ANGLERS HAVE TO OBSERVE CERTAIN RULES WHILE FISHING IN RESERVOIRS. THEY SHOULD NOT USE A NET OR TOOLS OTHER THAN ROD AND LINE.

EXPLOSIVES AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES ARE PROHIBITED. THE USE OF A BOAT, DINGHY OR RAFT IS ALSO BANNED.

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