



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO ENHANCING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED A PACKAGE OF MEASURES TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE PUBLIC'S ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

THE PROPOSED MEASURES ARE:

- \* TO INTRODUCE IN EARLY 1995 A CODE OF PRACTICE WHICH WILL SET OUT CLEARLY THE TYPES OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TO WHICH THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE ACCESS.
- \* TO PROVIDE INDEPENDENT MONITORING, THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS WILL HANDLE PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT LACK OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE.
- \* TO ADOPT DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION WHICH WILL ALLOW INDIVIDUALS ACCESS TO THEIR PERSONAL DATA.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MRS CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THESE PROPOSALS TO BE "STRONG, PRACTICAL AND EFFECTIVE", WHICH TAKEN TOGETHER, WILL MEET PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS OF GREATER TRANSPARENCY FROM A MORE ACCOUNTABLE AND OPEN GOVERNMENT.

SHE FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT THE MEASURES WERE THE RIGHT ONES TO TAKE AT THIS TIME TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF MAKING AVAILABLE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE TO ENHANCE THE PUBLIC'S UNDERSTANDING OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE MEASURES WOULD AFFECT THE CIVIL SERVICE AND CIVIL SERVANTS RIGHT ACROSS THE BOARD.

AS HEAD OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, SHE MADE A COMMITMENT TODAY THAT SHE AND HER COLLEAGUES WOULD DO ALL THEY COULD TO ENSURE THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE MEASURES, WHICH THEY BELIEVED WOULD ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, ALSO PLEDGED THE ADMINISTRATION'S STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLE OF AN OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT.

"OUR POLICY IS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE TO ENHANCE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES."

HE SAID THE CODE OF PRACTICE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION WOULD COMMIT THE GOVERNMENT TO GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN ITS WORK.

MR SUEN POINTED OUT THAT THE CODE WOULD BE UNDERPINNED BY PROVIDING FOR THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS (COMAC) TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS ABOUT NON-COMPLIANCE.

HE SAID A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN IN RECENT YEARS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO DO MORE IN THIS FIELD.

IN ARRIVING AT THE DECISION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A CODE OF PRACTICE, THE GOVERNMENT HAD EXAMINED VARIOUS OPTIONS, HE SAID.

"WE NEED TO GATHER EXPERIENCE IN PROVIDING GREATER PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION. A FLEXIBLE AND INCREMENTAL APPROACH IS BEST-SUITED FOR OUR PURPOSE.

"AN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF PRACTICE WILL ENABLE EARLY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PRACTICABLE ARRANGEMENTS TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

"THIS APPROACH WILL PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT VEHICLE TO DEVELOP POLICY, PRACTICES AND CULTURE MANAGEABLY, TAKING FULL ACCOUNT OF EXISTING PRACTICES HERE AND ELSEWHERE.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THIS ADMINISTRATIVE APPROACH IS APPROPRIATE FOR HONG KONG AT THIS JUNCTURE," HE SAID.

MR SUEN SAID AS A FIRST STEP, IMMEDIATE ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO DEVELOP A CODE. "WE AIM TO PRODUCE THE CODE OF PRACTICE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR."

"WE WILL THEN CONDUCT A PILOT SCHEME IN A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS, COVERING A WIDE SPECTRUM OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES TO TEST THE SYSTEM. THE CODE WILL BE MODIFIED AND REFINED IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED DURING THE PILOT SCHEME," HE ADDED.

MR SUEN POINTED OUT THAT EXTENSION OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE TO OTHER PARTS OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN PHASES.

"DETAILS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT VERY CAREFULLY. THERE WILL BE A NEED TO STUDY HOW THE CODE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN EACH BRANCH AND DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT.

"WE WILL AIM TO EXTEND THE CODE THROUGHOUT THE GOVERNMENT DURING 1996. THIS IS AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME, BUT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, WE WILL TRY TO COMPLETE THE WORK IN A SHORTER PERIOD.

"CONSIDERATION WILL THEN BE GIVEN TO EXTENDING THE CODE TO PUBLIC BODIES," HE SAID.

ON THE CODE ITSELF, MR SUEN SAID IT WILL SET OUT CLEARLY THE TYPES OF INFORMATION TO WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY HAVE ACCESS, THE MEANS BY WHICH A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC CAN GAIN ACCESS TO SUCH INFORMATION, AND THE TIMEFRAME WITHIN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

"ALTHOUGH WE WORK ON THE GENERAL PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION, DUE REGARD MUST BE GIVEN TO AREAS COVERING THE LIKES OF PERSONAL PRIVACY AND COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE INFORMATION.

"IT WILL, THEREFORE, BE NECESSARY TO SET OUT CATEGORIES OF EXEMPTION TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE CONFIDENTIALITY OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

MR SUEN POINTED OUT THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CODE WOULD BE TAKEN FORWARD BY AN INTERNAL STEERING GROUP WHICH HAD BEEN SET UP BY THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH WITH THE EFFICIENCY UNIT PROVIDING EXECUTIVE SUPPORT.

RESOURCES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND A PROJECT TEAM HAS BEEN SET UP UNDER THE EFFICIENCY UNIT TO UNDERTAKE THE TASK.

"THERE WILL BE WIDE CONSULTATION BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT CODE AND OPERATION OF THE PILOT SCHEME.

"WE WILL BE LOOKING AT EXPERIENCES ELSEWHERE AND DRAWING ON EXPERTISE IN THIS FIELD BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CODE," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE CODE, MR SUEN SAID THE PUBLIC WOULD BE ABLE TO SUBMIT COMPLAINTS ABOUT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHICH FAILED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON REQUEST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE TO COMAC.

COMAC WILL BE ABLE TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS AND IF HE FINDS THAT A SERIOUS IRREGULARITY OR INJUSTICE HAS TAKEN PLACE, HE MAY SUBMIT REPORTS TO THE GOVERNOR AND HAVE THEM PUT BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. COMAC CAN ALSO INVESTIGATE ON ITS OWN INITIATIVES.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL THUS BE ABLE TO MONITOR THE RESPONSE TO THESE REPORTS. COMAC MAY ALSO PUBLISH THESE REPORTS.

"WE BELIEVE THAT AN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF PRACTICE, UNDERPINNED BY THE COMPLAINT CHANNEL THROUGH COMAC, IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE, PRACTICABLE AND REASONABLY COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO DEVELOP FURTHER OUR ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

ON THE RELATED AREA OF PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA, MR SUEN SAID: "WE ALSO INTEND TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO ALLOW ACCESS AND CORRECTION WITH RESPECT TO PERSONAL DATA IN THE SPECIFIC CONTEXT OF DATA PROTECTION, PREPARATORY WORK ON WHICH IS AT AN ADVANCED STAGE."

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEED TO EXAMINE CAREFULLY THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION ON DATA PROTECTION BEFORE THE LEGISLATION CAN BE FINALISED.

"NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO MEET OUR TARGET OF INTRODUCING THE LEGISLATION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN EARLY 1995."

"THE PACKAGE OF MEASURES WE NOW PROPOSE, IN TERMS OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION, WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS MEETING THE EXPECTATION OF THE COMMUNITY FOR GREATER ACCESS TO INFORMATION," MR SUEN SAID.

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FUNDS SOUGHT FOR AIRPORT TERMINAL AND  
OTHER WORKS AT CHEK LAP KOK

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR \$8.90 BILLION (MONEY OF THE DAY) ADVANCE FUNDING TO COVER THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING AND CONCOURSE AT HONG KONG'S NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

ADVANCE FUNDING TOTALLING \$4.93 BILLION IS ALSO BEING SOUGHT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST RUNWAY AND OTHER ESSENTIAL CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS AT CHEK LAP KOK, PLUS \$1.08 BILLION FOR THE MANUFACTURE AND INSTALLATION OF THE AIRPORT'S BAGGAGE HANDLING AND AUTOMATED PEOPLE-MOVER SYSTEMS.

A FURTHER \$277 MILLION IS BEING SOUGHT TO COVER CONSEQUENTIAL INCREASES IN THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY'S HEAD OFFICE EXPENSES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THIS APPLICATION TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR STEP BY STEP APPROACH ON ADVANCE FUNDING, IN LINE WITH OUR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING COMMITMENT TO COMPLETE THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE BY JUNE 1997.

"THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY NEEDS FUNDING FOR THESE CONSTRUCTION WORKS SO THAT URGENT TENDERING CAN BEGIN IN JULY. THIS IS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE OVERALL MOMENTUM OF THE PROJECT.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRST PRIORITY IS TO REACH AN EARLY AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE SIDE ON FINANCING THE AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY.

"HOWEVER IT IS NECESSARY, IN PARALLEL WITH TALKS, TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM ON A STEP BY STEP BASIS. WE HAVE KEPT THE CHINESE SIDE INFORMED".

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE FUNDING WAS TOTALLY IN LINE WITH UPDATED AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME COST ESTIMATES PUBLISHED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR. THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGES.

THE \$15.18 BILLION THAT WAS BEING SOUGHT WOULD BRING THE PAA'S ADVANCES FROM THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND TO A TOTAL OF \$31.45 BILLION.

THIS WAS WITHIN THE \$36.6 BILLION GOVERNMENT EQUITY PROVIDED FOR THE PAA IN THE GOVERNMENT'S FOURTH FINANCING PROPOSAL TO THE CHINESE SIDE.

IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE ADVANCE FUNDING WOULD BE CONVERTED INTO EQUITY WHEN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON FINANCING.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PAA HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS ON THE FORMATION OF THE AIRPORT SITE, WHICH WAS NOW MORE THAN 60 PER CENT COMPLETE, AND ON DESIGN AND OTHER PREPARATORY WORK.

ON THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING, DESIGN WORK WAS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE, AND THE FOUNDATIONS CONTRACT HAD BEEN AWARDED ON MAY 30, 1994.

/THE PAA .....

THE PAA WAS THEREFORE READY TO CALL TENDERS FOR THE TERMINAL SUPERSTRUCTURE AND OTHER KEY CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS.

THE ADVANCE FUNDING OF \$8.90 BILLION REQUESTED FOR THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING AND CONCOURSE WOULD COVER: THE TERMINAL'S SUPERSTRUCTURE (\$5.52 BILLION); ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES (\$3.13 BILLION); AND COMMUNICATIONS AND SECURITY SYSTEMS (\$245 MILLION).

TENDERS FOR THESE CONTRACTS NEEDED TO BE INVITED IN JULY AND AUGUST.

THE \$4.93 BILLION FOR VARIOUS CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS WOULD COVER: THE FIRST OF THE AIRPORT'S TWO RUNWAYS AND ASSOCIATED TAXIWAYS (\$1.35 BILLION); MAIN AIRFIELD DRAINAGE AND UTILITIES (\$2.05 BILLION); FOUNDATIONS FOR THE GROUND TRANSPORTATION CENTRE, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE ROAD AND RAIL FACILITIES ADJACENT TO THE PASSENGER TERMINAL (\$320 MILLION); AIRFIELD TUNNELS (\$1.11 BILLION); AND ANCILLARY FACILITIES (\$102 MILLION).

THESE TENDERS NEEDED TO BE INVITED BETWEEN JULY AND SEPTEMBER.

THE \$1.08 BILLION FOR BAGGAGE HANDLING AND THE PEOPLE-MOVER WAS NEEDED TO ENABLE THE PAA TO GO AHEAD IN AUGUST WITH THE MANUFACTURING AND INSTALLATION PHASES OF THESE SYSTEMS.

IN JANUARY THE PAA WENT AHEAD WITH THE DESIGN PHASE AFTER THE FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE NECESSARY FUNDS.

A DISCUSSION PAPER OUTLINING THIS FUNDING REQUEST HAS BEEN ISSUED TODAY TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCING OF THE ACP.

THE FUNDING WILL BE DISCUSSED AT MEETINGS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE AND THE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE NEXT MONDAY (JUNE 20).

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#### ANCHORAGES AND FAIRWAYS IN HONG KONG PORT REARRANGED

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS INTRODUCED A PACKAGE OF MARINE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO MEET THE GROWTH OF MARINE TRAFFIC IN HONG KONG.

THE NEW MEASURES WERE UNVEILED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE (PORT SERVICES), MR REGGIE KENT, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE NEW MEASURES INCLUDE SUB-DIVIDING THE EXISTING GENERAL AREA OF THE WESTERN ANCHORAGE INTO NINE SMALLER ANCHORAGES, RE-ALIGNING THE YAU MA TEI, WESTERN DANGEROUS GOODS, WESTERN QUARANTINE AND IMMIGRATION ANCHORAGES AND THE NORTHERN FAIRWAY, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF FOUR NEW PRINCIPAL FAIRWAYS.

SEVEN OF THE SUB-DIVIDED ANCHORAGES ARE FOR GENERAL PURPOSE WHILE THE OTHER TWO ARE FOR DANGEROUS GOODS.

"UNDER THE SCHEME, THE EXISTING PUN SHAN DANGEROUS GOODS ANCHORAGE WILL BE RELOCATED TO SOUTH OF KAU YI CHAU AND RENAMED KAU YI CHAU DANGEROUS GOODS ANCHORAGE," MR KENT SAID.

THE NEW FAIRWAYS ARE THE YAU MA TEI, WESTERN, MA WAN AND KAP SHUI MUN FAIRWAYS. ALL OF THEM ARE CONNECTED WITH THE EXISTING OR RE-ALIGNED FAIRWAYS.

"THE REVAMP IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO RATIONALISE THE USE OF LIMITED ANCHORAGE AREAS WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS WHICH ARE DECREASING AS A RESULT OF ONGOING RECLAMATION SUCH AS THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, THE CONTAINER TERMINAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS AT KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI," MR KENT EXPLAINED.

"THE INCREASING VOLUME OF LOCAL MARINE TRAFFIC AS A RESULT OF THE GROWTH OF LOCAL, RIVER-TRADE AND OCEAN-GOING TRAFFIC AS WELL AS THE SURGE IN TRANSIT TRAFFIC TO AND FROM THE DEVELOPING SHENZHEN PORTS OF SHEKOU, CHIWAN AND MA WAN IS ANOTHER REASON FOR THE NEW FAIRWAYS," HE ADDED.

DURING THE INITIAL PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION, ADDITIONAL PATROL LAUNCHES WILL BE STATIONED IN THE AREA OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR TO REGULATE TRAFFIC.

"MASTERS AND OPERATORS OF VESSELS ARE ADVISED TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF PATROL OFFICERS," MR KENT SAID.

"TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE TRAFFIC AT THE APPROACHES TO THE HONG KONG PORT, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ALSO INTENDS TO EXTEND THE EAST LAMMA CHANNEL TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME SOUTH-EASTWARD BY THE END OF JUNE."

"THE EXTENSION WILL BE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS INITIALLY UNTIL IT IS APPROVED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION BY THE END OF THE YEAR," HE SAID.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE PUBLISHED IN MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO.62 OF 1994 AND NOTICE TO MARINERS NO. 43 TO 46 OF 1994 DETAILING THE ANCHORAGE REARRANGEMENTS, INTRODUCTION OF NEW FAIRWAYS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS HAVE BEEN ISSUED.

THESE, TOGETHER WITH A HANDOUT SHOWING DIAGRAMMATICALLY THE CHANGES, ARE OBTAINABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE MARINE DEPARTMENT PORT FORMALITIES OFFICE IN ROOM 318, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG OR FROM DISTRICT MARINE OFFICES.

THE EXTENSION OF THE EAST LAMMA CHANNEL TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME IS PROMULGATED VIDE NOTICE TO MARINERS NO. 47(T) OF 1994 WHICH IS ALSO AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE MARINE DEPARTMENT PORT FORMALITIES OFFICE.

VOTER REGISTER REGULATION

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AN AMENDMENT REGULATION IN RELATION TO THE COMPILATION, REVISION AND CORRECTION OF THE VOTER REGISTERS WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION (REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS) (GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1994 AMENDS THE PRINCIPAL REGULATION, CONSEQUENTIAL UPON AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE.

THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) (NO.2) BILL 1994, WHICH AMENDED THE ORDINANCE, WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JUNE 8.

THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) (NO.2) ORDINANCE 1994 WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE LAST FRIDAY.

THE COMMISSION'S REGULATION STATES THAT ELECTORS ON THE EXISTING FINAL REGISTER WHO HAVE EITHER CEASED TO ORDINARILY RESIDE IN HONG KONG OR HAVE CHANGED THEIR ADDRESSES WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE REGISTRATION OFFICER WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO BE REGISTERED IN A NEW REGISTER.

THE EXISTING ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE HAS LONG CONTAINED GENERAL PROVISIONS AUTHORIZING THE REGISTRATION OFFICER TO OMIT ELECTORS FROM THE VOTER REGISTER UNDER CERTAIN PRESCRIBED CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE AMENDMENTS MERELY SOUGHT TO REMOVE ANY DOUBT BY ADDING A CLEAR SPECIFIC ENABLING PROVISION AUTHORIZING THE REGISTRATION OFFICER TO DO SO.

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HK AND TORONTO HAVE NEW DIRECT AIR LINK

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THE NEW DIRECT AIR LINK BETWEEN HONG KONG AND TORONTO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CEMENT AND BUILD ON THE ALREADY STRONG FAMILY BUSINESS AND CULTURAL TIES THAT JOIN THE TWO CITIES, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ELIZABETH BOSHER, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN TORONTO AT THE INAUGURAL GALA DINNER TO CELEBRATE CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS' NEW DIRECT SERVICE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND TORONTO, MRS BOSHER SAID SAFE AND EFFICIENT AIR LINKS WERE A SPRINGBOARD TO INCREASED TRADE, TOURISM AND INVESTMENT.

MRS BOSHER SAID UNDER THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION WOULD, NEVERTHELESS, HAVE A VERY HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ITS OWN AIR LINKS WITH OTHER TERRITORIES.

"THE PROMPTNESS WITH WHICH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT COMMITTED ITSELF TO SEPARATE AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HONG KONG IS ONLY ONE OF THE MANY EXAMPLES OF THE TANGIBLE AND CONTINUING SUPPORT WHICH CANADA HAS SHOWN IN THE YEARS SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION.

"IN PREPARATION FOR THIS, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF SEPARATING ITS AIR SERVICES ARRANGEMENTS FROM THOSE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE SO FAR SIGNED EIGHT SEPARATE AND TWO NEW AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS WITH AVIATION PARTNERS.

"INDEED CANADA DISTINGUISHED ITSELF BY BEING ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTRIES TO SIGN UP WITH US BACK IN 1988.

"THE SUPPORT OF SO MANY CANADIAN FRIENDS AND THE COMMITMENT WHICH CANADA HAS DEMONSTRATED TO A WHOLE RANGE OF COMMERCIAL AND LEGAL AGREEMENTS WHICH WILL EXTEND SEAMLESSLY THROUGH 1997 HAS BEEN VERY MUCH VALUED.

"IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO IN THE YEARS TO COME," SHE SAID.

MRS BOSHER SAID THE NEXT THREE YEARS WOULD NOT BE EASY FOR HONG KONG AND ITS PEOPLE AS THEY PREPARED FOR THE UNIQUE CHALLENGE OF THE IMPENDING CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY.

"WHAT I CAN SAY IS THAT THE MOOD IN HONG KONG IS ONE OF THE OPTIMISM AND CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE, NOT JUST OF HONG KONG BUT OF CHINA AS A WHOLE, MANY REGIONS OF WHICH ARE EXPRESSING PHENOMENAL ECONOMIC GROWTH.

"IN ADDITION TO CONFIDENCE THERE IS ALSO A MOOD OF RESOLVE TO MAINTAIN AND BUILD ON THE SYSTEMS AND VALUES WHICH HAVE MADE HONG KONG ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST SPECTACULAR INTERNATIONAL CITIES," SHE SAID.

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GUIDELINES ON WORK ARRANGEMENTS DURING TYPHOONS  
AND RAINSTORMS PUBLISHED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS PUBLISHED A NEW BILINGUAL BOOKLET NAMED "CODE OF PRACTICE IN TIMES OF TYPHOONS AND RAINSTORMS" WHICH SERVES AS A REFERENCE GUIDE FOR EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO MAKE EARLY WORK ARRANGEMENTS DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER.

THIS CODE OF PRACTICE IS PRODUCED BY THE LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTION UNIT TO FACILITATE EMPLOYERS IN REACHING PRIOR AGREEMENTS WITH THEIR EMPLOYEES WITH REGARD TO WORK ARRANGEMENTS IN TIMES OF TYPHOONS AND RAINSTORMS SO AS TO MINIMISE CHANCES OF GETTING DISPUTES OVER PAY AND CONDITIONS OF WORK.

"IN BRIEF, AN AGREEMENT ON WORK ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD COVER RULES REGARDING REPORT OF DUTY, RELEASE FROM WORK, RESUMPTION OF WORK AND WAGES CALCULATION," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER MR HO HONG-WAI SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE AGREEMENT TO BE MADE BETWEEN THE EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES SHOULD STATE CLEARLY THE TYPHOON SIGNAL NUMBER OR THE COLOUR CODE OF RAINSTORM UNDER WHICH EMPLOYEES ARE NOT REQUIRED TO WORK AND THE TIME OF ISSUE OF SUCH SIGNALS WHEN THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REPORT FOR DUTY," MR HO SAID.

NOTING THAT SOME INDUSTRIES MAY REQUIRE EMPLOYEES TO WORK UNDER TYPHOON SIGNAL NO. 8 OR BLACK RAINSTORM WARNING, MR HO SAID SUCH A REQUIREMENT SHOULD BE CLEARLY STATED BEFORE THE EMPLOYMENT COMMENCES OR SUFFICIENT NOTICE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE EMPLOYEES.

"THE WORK ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE RELEASE OF EMPLOYEES WHEN TYPHOONS AND RAINSTORMS ARE IN FORCE DURING WORKING HOURS," MR HO SAID.

EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES SHOULD ALSO MAKE PRIOR AGREEMENTS ON CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH EMPLOYEES SHOULD RETURN TO WORK WHEN TYPHOON SIGNALS OR RAINSTORM WARNINGS ARE LOWERED DURING WORKING HOURS.

HOWEVER, EMPLOYERS ARE ADVISED TO ADOPT A FLEXIBLE APPROACH IF EMPLOYEES HAVE GENUINE DIFFICULTIES IN RETURNING TO WORK QUICKLY.

"THE METHOD OF CALCULATING WAGES AND THE PAYMENT OF SPECIAL ALLOWANCE TO EMPLOYEES WORKING UNDER TYPHOONS AND RAINSTORMS SHOULD BE SPELT OUT IN THE ARRANGEMENT," HE SAID.

MR HO APPEALED TO EMPLOYERS TO GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO EMPLOYEES WHO ARE ABSENT FROM OR LATE FOR WORK BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER SO THAT EMPLOYEES' EARNINGS, INCLUDING ATTENDANCE BONUS, ARE NOT AFFECTED.

DETAILED GUIDELINES AND SAMPLES OF WORK ARRANGEMENTS DURING TYPHOONS AND RAINSTORMS ARE PROVIDED IN THE NEW BOOKLET.

COPIES OF THE PUBLICATION ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT THE 11 OFFICES OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

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#### STUDY ON HK'S PLASTICS INDUSTRY COMMISSIONED

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CONSULTANTS COMMISSIONED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ARE CARRYING OUT A STUDY ON HONG KONG'S PLASTICS INDUSTRY TO FIND OUT THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE INDUSTRY, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MISS DENISE YUE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION OF THE HONG KONG PLASTIC MATERIAL SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION, MISS YUE SAID THE STUDY, CARRIED OUT BY THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (HKPC) AND A CONSULTING FIRM, WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND ON WAYS OF ENHANCING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF LOCAL PLASTICS INDUSTRY.

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"COMMENCED IN MARCH THIS YEAR, THE TECHNO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET RESEARCH STUDY ON HONG KONG'S PLASTICS INDUSTRY WILL BE COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER AND A REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR CONSIDERATION.

"VIEWS OF MANUFACTURERS IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT," SHE SAID.

MISS YUE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD SPARED NO EFFORT IN PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO PLASTICS MANUFACTURERS TO COPE WITH INCREASING COMPETITIONS FROM NEWLY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES AND RISING CONSUMER DEMANDS.

SHE SAID A TOTAL OF \$9 MILLION HAD BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THIS YEAR'S \$180 MILLION ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT TO FINANCE THREE PLASTICS INDUSTRY RELATED PROJECTS.

"A FOURTH PROJECT, WHICH INVOLVES THE USE OF SOME \$29 MILLION BY THE HKPC AND CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG TO SET UP THE FIRST RAPID PROTOTYPING CENTRE IN HONG KONG, WILL HOPEFULLY BE MATERIALISED IN THE NEAR FUTURE," MISS YUE SAID.

"THE CENTRE WILL PROVIDE MANUFACTURERS WITH RAPID PLASTICS PROTOTYPING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SERVICES SO THAT THEY CAN RESPOND MORE QUICKLY TO MARKET DEMANDS BY REDUCING THE LEAD TIME IN THE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PRODUCTS," SHE ADDED.

SHE SAID A FURTHER \$6 MILLION HAD ALSO BEEN RESERVED FROM THE \$180 MILLION ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE PLASTICS COMMITTEE OF THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO FUND PLASTICS SUPPORT PROJECTS COSTING LESS THAN \$1 MILLION EACH.

MISS YUE POINTED OUT THAT THE HKPC, WHICH WAS SUBSIDISED BY THE GOVERNMENT, HAD PROVIDED A RANGE OF SERVICES RELATING TO THE DESIGN AND PRODUCTION OF PLASTICS INJECTION MOULDS.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE HAS BEEN PROVIDING EXPERT SERVICES TO THE PLASTICS MANUFACTURERS SINCE IT WAS SET UP SIX YEARS AGO," SHE SAID.

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#### PUBLICITY MATERIALS PRODUCED ON LIGHTER SCHOOL BAGS

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS PRODUCED A PACKAGE OF PUBLICITY MATERIALS INCLUDING A POSTER, A LEAFLET AND A STICKER FOR PUPILS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS IN A BID TO REDUCE THE WEIGHT OF PUPILS' SCHOOL BAGS.

THE PUBLICITY MATERIALS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS AND PARENTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF AN OVERWEIGHT SCHOOL BAG ON A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT, AND TO RECOMMEND WAYS TO PREVENT SCHOOL BAGS GETTING TOO HEAVY.

/THE LEAFLET .....

THE LEAFLET POINTS OUT THAT OVERWEIGHT SCHOOL BAGS AND INCORRECT POSTURES IN CARRYING SCHOOL BAGS AFFECT SPINAL DEVELOPMENT AND THAT A PUPIL SHOULD ONLY CARRY WEIGHT APPROPRIATE TO HIS OR HER AGE AND PHYSIQUE.

THE DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGES CHILDREN TO PACK THEIR SCHOOL BAGS EVERY DAY ACCORDING TO THE TIMETABLE. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT CARRY TO SCHOOL UNNECESSARY ITEMS SUCH AS COMICS, TOYS AND VIDEO GAMES. STATIONERY WHICH IS LIGHT AND EASY TO CARRY IS RECOMMENDED.

THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS THE USE OF SATCHELS WHICH ARE LIGHT AND SECURE. THE STRAPS SHOULD PREFERABLY BE WIDE AND PADDED, AND THE BUTTONS AND ZIPS PLASTIC.

THE POSTER AND STICKER DRIVE HOME THE MESSAGE: "PACK YOUR SCHOOL BAG. KEEP IT LIGHT. START EACH SCHOOL DAY EASY AND BRIGHT."

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED GUIDELINES TO SCHOOLS IN MARCH THIS YEAR EXPRESSING CONCERN ON OVERWEIGHT SCHOOL BAGS.

THE GUIDELINES ADVISED, AMONG OTHER MEASURES, THE COMPILATION OF A TIMETABLE THAT WOULD NOT REQUIRE STUDENTS TO BRING TO SCHOOL A LARGE NUMBER OF TEXTBOOKS, WORKBOOKS OR EXERCISE BOOKS ON ANY DAY OF THE WEEK.

SCHOOLS SHOULD CONSIDER THE WEIGHT OF TEXTBOOKS AGAINST THEIR OTHER QUALITIES BEFORE DETERMINING WHICH TEXTBOOKS TO PRESCRIBE.

FACILITIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, FOR STUDENTS TO STORE BOOKS, STATIONERY AND PERSONAL ITEMS THAT NEED NOT BE CARRIED TO AND FROM SCHOOL EVERY DAY.

THE PROVISION OF DRINKING WATER IN SCHOOLS WOULD ALSO HELP REDUCE THE WEIGHT OF SCHOOL BAGS.

THE GUIDELINES ALSO SUGGESTED THAT TEACHERS SHOULD AVOID PUNISHING STUDENTS FOR OCCASIONALLY FAILING TO PRODUCE BOOKS OR OTHER ITEMS IN CLASS.

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#### EDUCATION BOARD VISITS PERTH STREET SERVICES CENTRE

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THREE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, LED BY ITS CHAIRMAN, DR TAM MAN-KWAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE PERTH STREET SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES PROVIDED TO CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, HEARING, EYE-SIGHT AND SPEECH PROBLEMS.

THEY ARE MISS BOW SUI-MAY, MR MICHAEL HONG MAN-HOI AND MRS MINNIE LAI WEI KIT-LIN.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SERVICES), MR CLEMENT WONG, THE GROUP WAS BRIEFED BY SENIOR SPECIALIST (EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY/SPECIAL EDUCATION), MS EUGENIE WOO, ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CENTRE.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1994

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THE SERVICES INCLUDED SCREENING, REFERRAL AND PLACEMENT, AUDIOLOGICAL SERVICE, SPEECH THERAPY SERVICE, PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE, RESOURCE TEACHING AND ADVISORY SERVICE.

THE GROUP WAS TOLD THAT THE CENTRE WAS THE LARGEST OF THREE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRES OPERATED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE CENTRE PROVIDES A FULL RANGE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES FOR PRE-SCHOOL AND SCHOOL CHILDREN, AIMING FOR EARLY DIAGNOSIS, ENABLING REMEDIAL MEASURES TO PREVENT A MILD IMPAIRMENT FROM BECOMING A SERIOUS OR PERMANENT ONE.

THE SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE USUALLY REFERRED TO THE CENTRE BY PARENTS, MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS; SOME OF THESE REFERRALS ARE MADE VIA THE COMBINED SCREENING PROGRAMME.

THE GROUP LATER TOURED THE CENTRE AND MET SPECIALISTS IN THE AUDIOLOGICAL TESTING LABORATORY, ACOUSTIC LABORATORY, EARMOULD LABORATORY, SPEECH THERAPY LABORATORY, TEACHING RESOURCES ROOM, AND COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE ROOMS.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9399.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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|                                | \$ MILLION | TIME<br>(HOURS) | CUMULATIVE<br>CHANGE<br>(\$ MILLION) |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
|                                | -----      | -----           | -----                                |
| OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 2,094      | 0930            | -1,137                               |
| CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 1,067      | 1000            | -987                                 |
| CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :       |            | 1100            | -887                                 |
| MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY          | -787       | 1200            | -887                                 |
| LAF TODAY                      | -240       | 1500            | -787                                 |
|                                |            | 1600            | -787                                 |
| LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER   | TWI 124.3  | *-0.2*          | 16.6.94                              |

## HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

## EF BILLS

## EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

| TERMS     | YIELD | TERM      | ISSUE | COUPON | PRICE  | YIELD |
|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 WEEK    | 3.93  | 17 MONTHS | 2511  | 4.15   | 98.16  | 5.57  |
| 1 MONTH   | 3.92  | 23 MONTHS | 2605  | 6.35   | 100.77 | 6.00  |
| 3 MONTHS  | 4.13  | 28 MONTHS | 3610  | 4.20   | 95.49  | 6.38  |
| 6 MONTHS  | 4.55  | 31 MONTHS | 3701  | 4.60   | 95.68  | 6.52  |
| 12 MONTHS | 5.16  | 34 MONTHS | 3704  | 6.15   | 99.00  | 6.64  |

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 14,850 MN

CLOSED 16 JUNE 1994

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