



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK-AN IRREPLACEABLE GATEWAY TO CHINA: STI

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TWO UNRELATED BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT EVENTS SCHEDULED TO OCCUR ON JANUARY 15 WOULD HAVE POTENTIALLY FAR-REACHING ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID IN LONDON TODAY (MONDAY).

MR CHAN TOLD THE HONG KONG EXECUTIVES CLUB THAT BOTH EVENTS - THE SITUATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND A MEETING IN GENEVA ON THE URUGUAY ROUND OF GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) NEGOTIATIONS - HAD, IN DIFFERENT WAYS, POTENTIALLY FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY, AND AS A CONSEQUENCE FOR HONG KONG'S WHICH WAS SO OPEN AND EXPOSED TO EXTERNAL INFLUENCES.

HE SAID SHORT-TERM PROBLEMS AND UNCERTAINTIES SUCH AS THESE OFTEN LOOM VERY LARGE IN OUR THINKING.

"THEY ARE ALSO USUALLY RATHER WORRYING. WE HAVE TO LEARN TO FACE THEM, TO ANALYSE THE SITUATION CAREFULLY AND TO MAP OUT RESPONSES THAT WILL MAXIMISE THE OPPORTUNITIES AND MINIMISE THE RISKS.

"BUT WE MUST ALSO LEARN TO PUT SUCH SHORT-TERM PROBLEMS AND UNCERTAINTIES IN THEIR PROPER PERSPECTIVE AND NOT ALLOW THEM TO BLOCK OUR VISION, FOR, OTHERWISE, WE SHALL NEVER BE ABLE TO LOOK BEYOND OUR NOSES," MR CHAN SAID.

MR CHAN NOTED THAT THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT POINT TO BEAR IN MIND WHEN LOOKING AT HONG KONG AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME.

"WE WERE GOING THROUGH A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE, A LONGISH PERIOD OF TRANSITION LEADING TO AN UNPRECEDENTED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE.

"THE SITUATION IS A SENSITIVE ONE. IT IS ALSO FULL OF APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS WHICH DEMAND A GREAT DEAL OF IMAGINATION TO COMPREHEND AND RECONCILE," HE SAID.

FOR A START, WHILE THE PROSPECTIVE CHANGE FROM BEING A BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORY TO BECOMING A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION UNDER CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY WAS TRULY UNPRECEDENTED, IT WAS MEANT TO TAKE PLACE IN SUCH A WAY THAT HONG KONG'S LEGAL, JUDICIAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS WOULD REMAIN BASICALLY UNCHANGED; THAT HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE AFTER 1997 TO BE RUN BY HONG KONG PEOPLE, NOT BY PEOPLE POSTED FROM THE MAINLAND; AND THAT HONG KONG WOULD REMAIN A CAPITALIST SOCIETY, UNDER THE "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" CONCEPT, WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

"BUT TO ENSURE THAT THE PROMISED CONTINUITY ACROSS 1997 WILL MATERIALISE, AND THAT THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE INTENDED TO REMAIN UNCHANGED DO REMAIN UNCHANGED, A GREAT DEAL OF WORK REQUIRES TO BE DONE DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD TO PUT THE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE.

"SOME OF THESE NECESSITATE CHANGES BEING MADE TO THE STATUS QUO. AT THE SAME TIME, HONG KONG MUST DEVELOP AND CHANGE IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS ANY LIVING SOCIETY DOES. WE LIVE IN A FAST MOVING WORLD IN WHICH WE OFTEN HAVE TO KEEP RUNNING TO STAND STILL.

"NO SOCIETY, LEAST OF ALL ONE AS DYNAMIC AND EXTERNALLY-ORIENTED AS HONG KONG'S, CAN BE PUT IN A REFRIGERATOR TO BE TAKEN OUT AND DEFROSTED AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME," MR CHAN SAID.

HE CONTINUED: "THIS BRINGS ME TO ANOTHER APPARENT CONTRADICTION. ON THE ONE HAND, HAVING A 12 1/2-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD BETWEEN THE SIGNATURE OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION AND THE RETURN TO CHINA OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER HONG KONG IS CLEARLY A SOUND AND SENSIBLE ARRANGEMENT WHICH ALLOWS AMPLE TIME IN WHICH TO PREPARE FOR THE SMOOTHEST POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, IT DOES MEAN THAT THERE IS RATHER A LONG PERIOD IN WHICH THE DATE JULY 1, 1997 THREATENS TO BLOCK OUR VISION AND TO PREVENT US FROM LOOKING BEYOND IT."

FURTHERMORE, ALTHOUGH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW HAD SET OUT CLEARLY WHAT HONG KONG WOULD BE LIKE AFTER 1997, THERE WAS STILL, IN THE PERCEPTION OF SOME PEOPLE, GREAT UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER WHAT HAD BEEN PROMISED WOULD ACTUALLY MATERIALISE.

AND WHEN, AS WAS PERHAPS INEVITABLE, THE OCCASIONAL SQUABBLE AROSE BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS OVER A HONG KONG ISSUE, CONCERNS WERE IMMEDIATELY AROUSED THAT THE AGREEMENT OVER THE FUTURE WOULD NOT WORK.

"IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AT TIMES LIKE THIS THAT WE SHOULD LOOK PURPOSEFULLY INTO THE FUTURE, BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS AND UNCERTAINTIES THAT CONFRONT US," MR CHAN SAID.

MR CHAN TRACED CHANGES IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMY FROM BEING LARGELY RELIANT ON MANUFACTURING TO THE STAGE NOW WHERE AROUND 70 PER CENT OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT WAS ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE SERVICES SECTOR.

WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAD INCREASED BY AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 9.5 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS BETWEEN 1984 AND 1989, THIS FIGURE PALED INTO INSIGNIFICANCE WHEN COMPARED WITH THAT FOR RE-EXPORTS WHICH HAD INCREASED BY AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF NEARLY 30 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE SAME PERIOD, REFLECTING IN PART THE REMARKABLE GROWTH OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN CHINA.

SO, WITH ITS CHINA CONNECTION, STRATEGIC LOCATION, HIGHLY EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, HONG KONG HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT TRADING, FINANCIAL AND SERVICES CENTRE FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, AS WELL AS AN IRREPLACEABLE GATEWAY TO CHINA, MR CHAN SAID.

TRADE WITH THE REGION HAD INCREASED BY OVER 30 PER CENT A YEAR IN 1987 AND 1988, AND BY A FURTHER 15 PER CENT IN 1989. TODAY, TRADE WITH ASIA-PACIFIC PARTNERS ACCOUNTED FOR MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS OF OUR GLOBAL TRADE.

WITHIN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, MR CHAN SAID TRADE WITH EAST ASIA HAD GROWN PARTICULARLY FAST. TEN YEARS AGO, ASIA ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY 45 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL TRADE: IT NOW ACCOUNTED FOR 60 PER CENT.

"THIS IS LARGELY, BUT BY NO MEANS ALL, DUE TO CHINA," HE SAID.

"I THINK YOU WILL AGREE THAT WHAT I HAVE DESCRIBED SO FAR PROVIDES VERY STRONG FOUNDATIONS ON WHICH WE CAN BUILD THE HONG KONG OF THE FUTURE.

"WE ARE BUILDING ON THESE FOUNDATIONS. THIS WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK. THERE WILL BE PROBLEMS ALONG THE WAY. BUT THE TASK IS ENTIRELY ACHIEVABLE," THE SECRETARY SAID.

MR CHAN SAID A PERENNIAL THREAT TO SMALL, EXPORT-ORIENTATED ECONOMIES SUCH AS HONG KONG'S WAS TRADE PROTECTIONISM IN WORLD MARKETS.

"WE HAD VERY LITTLE CLOUT OF OUR OWN. THIS WAS WHY THE GATT WAS SO IMPORTANT TO US.

"THE ON-GOING URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IS CRUCIAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE FREE TRADE SYSTEM THAT HAS BROUGHT PROSPERITY TO SO MANY IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT HONG KONG, AS A CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GATT IN ITS OWN RIGHT, HAD BEEN PLAYING A FULL AND CONSTRUCTIVE PART IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS.

"LIKE MANY OTHER PARTICIPANTS, WE WERE DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED THAT SERIOUS DIFFERENCES IN SOME AREAS PREVENTED THE URUGUAY ROUND FROM BEING SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED BEFORE THE END OF 1990.

"IT WILL TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF POLITICAL WILL AND COURAGE ON THE PART OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR TRADING POWERS TO RESOLVE THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS.

"I HOPE THEY WILL RISE TO THE CHALLENGE," MR CHAN SAID.

HE SAID HONG KONG FULLY EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO BE FACED WITH PROBLEMS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER. BUT PROBLEMS WERE USUALLY BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE.

"TOO MUCH PLAIN SAILING CAN BE HYPNOTIC. HONG KONG WILL NOT SHY AWAY FROM ITS PROBLEMS, OR ALLOW THEM TO DISCOURAGE US FROM BUILDING FOR OURSELVES A BETTER TOMORROW," HE SAID.

"OUR STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE IS TO MAINTAIN THOSE ASPECTS OF HONG KONG LIFE THAT ARE MOST ATTRACTIVE, SUCH AS A DYNAMIC ECONOMY, FULL EMPLOYMENT AND LOW TAX RATES, AND TO IMPROVE FURTHER THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN TERMS OF, FOR EXAMPLE, A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT, BETTER HOUSING AND HIGHER STANDARDS OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

"IN PURSUING THIS STRATEGY, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, FOR ITS PART, IS LOOKING WELL BEYOND 1997," MR CHAN SAID.

AG OUTLINES MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING LAWYERS
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MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING LAWYERS WOULD ARISE THROUGH THE BILL OF RIGHTS, THE COMPLETION OF THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET IN 1992 AND THE INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ON TRADE IN SERVICES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR, MR MATHEWS SAID: "THE BILL OF RIGHTS IS NOT DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT A REVOLUTION IN OUR LAWS AND OUR LEGAL SYSTEM. IT IS A RESTATEMENT IN LEGISLATIVE FORM OF THOSE CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS WHICH ARE ALREADY KNOWN TO US."

"THE BILL SHOULD ENABLE THE INDIVIDUAL TO SEEK AN EFFECTIVE REMEDY IN OUR COURTS FOR VIOLATIONS OF THOSE RIGHTS. THE LEGAL PRINCIPLES WHICH IT ENUNCIATES WILL BE FAMILIAR TO EVERY LAWYER TRAINED IN THE COMMON LAW SYSTEM, EVEN IF THOSE PRINCIPLES ARE PACKAGED IN A NOVEL FORM."

IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE BILL WOULD BE CONSTITUTIONALLY UNDERPINNED BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE LETTERS PATENT WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FROM ENACTING VALID LAWS THAT WERE INCONSISTENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS WHICH WAS REPRODUCED IN THE BILL.

"THIS MEANS THAT WHERE AN INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGES A NEW LAW ON THE BASIS THAT THE LEGISLATURE DID NOT, BY REASON OF THE LETTERS PATENT, HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE THAT LAW, THE COURTS WILL BE ABLE TO REVIEW IT.

"AS FOR EXISTING LAWS, IF THEY ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE BILL, THEY ARE REPEALED TO THE EXTENT OF THAT INCONSISTENCY BY OPERATION OF WELL-KNOWN RULES OF STATUTORY INTERPRETATION," MR MATHEWS SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS LIKELY THAT THE BILL OF RIGHTS, IF ENACTED IN ITS PRESENT FORM, WOULD HAVE ITS GREATEST IMPACT ON THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN LITIGATION, PARTICULARLY CRIMINAL LITIGATION.

"VIOLATIONS OF THE BILL'S PROVISIONS MAY RESULT IN JUDGES AND MAGISTRATES GRANTING SUCH RELIEF AS THEY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE AND JUST, WHICH IN THE CONTEXT OF CRIMINAL TRIALS MAY FOR EXAMPLE MEAN THE EXCLUSION OF EVIDENCE WHICH, PRIOR TO THE BILL'S ENACTMENT, MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN ADMITTED," HE SAID.

BUT THE BILL SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED BY CIVIL PRACTITIONERS. MR MATHEWS SAID ALTHOUGH IT WAS PRIMARILY ADDRESSED TO PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, THE BILL WOULD BIND EVERYONE IN HONG KONG.

"FOR EXAMPLE LIMITATIONS ON PERSONAL FREEDOMS WHICH ARE IMPOSED BY EMPLOYERS WILL HAVE TO BE SHOWN TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE BILL.

"IN THIS CONTEXT, LEGAL ADVISERS TO LARGE BUSINESS CONCERNS MIGHT WELL BE ASKED TO CONSIDER WHETHER SERVICE AGREEMENTS WHICH SEEK TO IMPOSE LIMITATIONS ON THE CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES, SUCH AS THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION; THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND OPINION; AND THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC LIFE, ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

"IT SHOULD ALSO BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT, ALTHOUGH I WOULD NOT WISH TO PREDICT THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE BILL WHICH IS PRESENTLY BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WE WILL NOT BE PRODUCING A 'CRIPPLED BILL'.

"I WOULD WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STATE ONCE AGAIN - BECAUSE IT IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO LEGAL PRACTITIONERS - THAT EVEN IF THERE IS A FREEZE PROVISION IN THE BILL - THE LEGISLATION ITSELF WILL BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY IT IS BROUGHT INTO OPERATION.

"IT IS NOT THE BILL WHICH IS FROZEN, OR LEGISLATION WHICH FOLLOWS IT, BUT ONLY PRE-EXISTING LEGISLATION - AND THAT ONLY FOR A SHORT PERIOD," MR MATHEWS SAID.

"SO I URGE YOU ALL - JUDGES, BARRISTERS, AND SOLICITORS - TO MAKE YOURSELVES THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS. NO, ONE IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE DISADVANTAGED BECAUSE OF HIS LAWYER'S IGNORANCE OF HIS FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS."

ON EUROPE AND 1992, HE SAID ANY LAW FIRM WHICH HELD ITSELF OUT AS COMPETENT TO ADVISE ITS CLIENTS ON INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, INVESTMENT OR LITIGATION WOULD NEED - IF IT WAS TO DO ITS JOB PROPERLY - ACCESS TO EUROPEAN LAW EXPERIENCE. THAT WOULD BE PROVIDED EITHER IN HOUSE OR BY THE BAR OR BY ASSOCIATION WITH ANOTHER FIRM, WHETHER LOCAL OR INTERNATIONAL, WHICH HAD A SOUND KNOWLEDGE OF EUROPEAN LAW.

"THIS IS NOT, OF COURSE, TO SAY THAT THERE WILL BE NO ROOM FOR THE PURELY LOCAL PRACTICE, BUT IT IS TO SAY THAT IF HONG KONG IS TO REMAIN IN THE FOREFRONT OF LEGAL PRACTICE SO THAT THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSMAN CAN OBTAIN THE ADVICE THAT HE WANTS WHEN HE WANTS IT, THEN TRULY INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRMS MUST EXIST HERE.

"IF THEY DO NOT, THEN HONG KONG MUST INEVITABLY LOSE OUT AS AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE TO THE ADVANTAGE OF OTHER - PERHAPS MORE FORWARD LOOKING - CENTRES.

"HONG KONG IS IDEALLY PLACED TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION AS AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES. WE SHOULD SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO US BEFORE OTHERS DO, ALTHOUGH SOME OTHERS ARE ALREADY SHOWING US THE WAY," MR MATHEWS SAID.

AS FAR AS EUROPE WAS CONCERNED, HE SAID THE FACT OF THE MATTER WAS THAT THE COMPLETION OF THE SINGLE MARKET IN 1992 AND THE DEREGULATION OF FINANCIAL MARKETS WOULD MILITATE IN FAVOUR OF MULTI-NATIONAL PRACTICES.

"DO WE - AS LAWYERS IN HONG KONG - WANT TO BE A PART OF THOSE PRACTICES, WHICH WILL ENGAGE NOT ONLY IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BUT WORLDWIDE, OR DO WE WISH TO RISK BEING ISOLATED?"

TURNING TO THE URUGUAY ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE, OR GATT, MR MATHEWS SAID THE NEGOTIATIONS AIMED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO EXTEND TO TRADE IN SERVICES RULES AND DISCIPLINES BASED ON THOSE WHICH GOVERNED TRADE IN GOODS UNDER THE GATT, WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING TRADE IN SERVICES ON A COMPETITIVE AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS.

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"ASSUMING THAT THE PRESENT DEADLOCK IN THE URUGUAY ROUND IS RESOLVED AND AN AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES IS REACHED, WE MUST CONSIDER THE LIKELY CONSEQUENT IMPLICATIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE PROFESSION IN HONG KONG.

"THE MAIN IMPLICATION WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT ANY REQUIREMENTS WE SET FOR ADMISSION OF LAWYERS IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE MAINTAINED ON THE BASIS OF FAIR AND OBJECTIVE STANDARDS.

"I WISH TO REASSURE YOU THAT NOTHING IN THE POSSIBLE TRADE IN SERVICES AGREEMENT WILL UNDERMINE HONG KONG'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE TO ENSURE THAT THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO BE SERVED BY LAWYERS OF COMPETENCE, EXPERIENCE AND INTEGRITY."

MR MATHEWS SAID IN THIS CONTEXT THE ADMINISTRATION, THE BAR AND THE LAW SOCIETY HAD BEEN HARD AT WORK SEEKING TO EVOLVE RULES AND CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR LAWYERS IN HONG KONG.

"WE ARE CONSIDERING THE IMPACT THAT ANY AGREEMENT RESULTING FROM THE TRADE IN SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT HAVE ON THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

"THE SUBJECT IS FAR-REACHING AND COMPLEX, BUT EQUALLY IT IS ONE WHICH WE ALL REGARD AS HAVING A HIGH PRIORITY AND A GOOD DEAL OF PROGRESS HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE.

"THERE EXIST, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND BECAUSE OF EUROPE, GREAT CHALLENGES AND GREAT OPPORTUNITIES. IT IS UP TO US TO DECIDE WHETHER WE WISH TO GRASP THEM," MR MATHEWS SAID.

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GOVERNMENT CONTINUES ITS EFFORT IN PROTECTING INVESTORS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO WORK TOWARDS ENSURING THAT APPROPRIATE MEASURES ARE IN PLACE FOR THE PROPER PROTECTION OF NON-PROFESSIONAL INVESTORS, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF RTHK'S "MONEY PROGRAMME" THIS AFTERNOON, MR NENDICK SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE STOCK EXCHANGE TO ENSURE FAIR TRADING AND THE AVAILABILITY OF RELEVANT AND TIMELY INFORMATION TO ALL INVESTORS.

THE SECURITIES (INSIDER DEALING) ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN JULY LAST YEAR, MR NENDICK NOTED.

"IT PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE DEFINITION OF INSIDER DEALING AND EMPOWERS THE INSIDER DEALING TRIBUNAL TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON PEOPLE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN INSIDER DEALING.

/"SUCH SANCTIONS

"SUCH SANCTIONS MAY INCLUDE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AN ORDER THAT THE PERSON SHALL PAY TO THE GOVERNMENT THE AMOUNT OF ANY PROFIT GAINED OR LOSS AVOIDED AS A RESULT OF THE INSIDER DEALING, PLUS A FINE OF UP TO THREE TIMES THAT AMOUNT," MR NENDICK SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AMENDMENTS WERE ALSO MADE TO THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) ORDINANCE IN JUNE LAST YEAR TO REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS OF LISTED COMPANIES TO DISCLOSE THEIR SHAREHOLDINGS AND SHARE DEALINGS TO THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

"THIS ENSURES THAT THE STOCK EXCHANGE IS IN A POSITION TO PUBLISH PRICE-SENSITIVE INFORMATION AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE," MR NENDICK SAID.

"STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO BRING BOTH THE 'INSIDER DEALING' AND THE 'DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS' ORDINANCES INTO OPERATION WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS," HE ADDED.

APART FROM MEASURES TO PROTECT INVESTORS, THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO TAKING STEPS TO IMPROVE THE LIQUIDITY OF THE SECURITIES MARKET, MR NENDICK SAID.

"TO THIS END, PLANS ARE IN HAND TO AMEND THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE TO ALLOW COMPANIES, BOTH LISTED AND UNLISTED, TO BUY BACK THEIR OWN SHARES.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE POWER TO BUY BACK ITS OWN SHARES IS A USEFUL FINANCIAL TOOL WHICH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO EVERY COMPANY BUT THERE MUST BE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ABUSE," HE SAID.

"THIS WE ARE WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE STOCK EXCHANGE," MR NENDICK SAID.

MR NENDICK SAID ANOTHER MEASURE BEING CONSIDERED WAS TO ALLOW STOCK LENDING AND BORROWING INVOLVING MARKET PARTICIPANTS FREE OF STAMP DUTY.

"THIS WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF INCREASING MARKET LIQUIDITY," HE ADDED.

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JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE
BRINGS ABOUT TWO MAJOR CHANGES

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THE MOST NOTABLE EVENT IN 1990 CONCERNING THE JUDICIARY WAS THE ENACTMENT OF THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE WHICH BRINGS ABOUT TWO MAJOR CHANGES, THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

IN ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1991 LEGAL YEAR HELD AT THE CITY HALL, SIR TI LIANG SAID THE FIRST CHANGE WAS THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN ENLARGED FROM SIX TO NINE PERSONS.

THE ENLARGED MEMBERSHIP NOW CONSISTS OF:

- THE CHIEF JUSTICE, WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN;
- THE ATTORNEY GENERAL; AND
- SEVEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, OF WHOM TWO SHALL BE JUDGES, ONE SHALL BE A BARRISTER AND ONE SHALL BE A SOLICITOR, AND THREE LAYMEN WHO ARE NOT, IN THE OPINION OF

THE GOVERNOR, CONNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH THE PRACTICE OF LAW.

"BY THIS CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION WILL NO LONGER BE ON THE COMMISSION, AND THE INCLUSION OF LAY MEMBERS ENSURES THAT THE PUBLIC HAS A VOICE IN THE APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS," THE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID.

THE NEXT MAJOR CHANGE WAS THAT WHILST THE COMMISSION'S RESOLUTIONS HAD TO BE UNANIMOUS PRIOR TO THE AMENDED ORDINANCE, THESE MAY NOW BE BY A MAJORITY.

"IT IS PROVIDED THAT AT A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION A RESOLUTION IS EFFECTIVE IF WHERE SEVEN MEMBERS ARE PRESENT, AT LEAST FIVE VOTE IN FAVOUR; WHERE EIGHT MEMBERS ARE PRESENT, AT LEAST SIX VOTE IN FAVOUR; AND WHERE NINE MEMBERS ARE PRESENT, AT LEAST SEVEN VOTE IN FAVOUR," SIR TI LIANG EXPLAINED.

IN THE DAYS WHEN RESOLUTIONS HAD TO BE UNANIMOUS, THERE WERE COMPLAINTS THAT SINCE ONE PERSON ALONE COULD BLOCK AN APPOINTMENT OR PROMOTION, THIS COULD PRODUCE UNFAIR RESULTS. IT WAS THEN GENERALLY AGREED THAT RESOLUTIONS BY MAJORITY SHOULD BE EFFECTIVE. THE ARGUMENTS WERE CENTRED ON THE SIZE OF THE MAJORITY.

"ONE SCHOOL OF THOUGHT WAS THAT TWO DISSENTING VOTES SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO RENDER A RESOLUTION INEFFECTIVE," THE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID.

"THE OTHER SCHOOL HOWEVER MAINTAINED THAT IN ORDER TO PREVENT TWO PEOPLE FROM ACTING UNFAIRLY TOGETHER, THREE DISSENTING VOTES SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO RENDER A RESOLUTION INEFFECTIVE, FOR THE LIKELIHOOD OF THREE PEOPLE AGREEING TO ACT UNFAIRLY TOGETHER WAS VERY MUCH REDUCED," HE ADDED.

AFTER LONG AND CAREFUL DELIBERATIONS, THE RESULT WAS THAT THREE DISSENTING VOTES WERE NEEDED TO RENDER A RESOLUTION INEFFECTIVE.

"WHATEVER THE PROS AND CONS, THE NEW LAW HAS NOW BEEN PASSED, AND IT IS UP TO ALL THOSE CONCERNED TO MAKE IT WORK. IN MY VIEW THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON TO SUSPECT THAT THE COMMISSION COULD NOT OR WOULD NOT ACT FAIRLY AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY IN FUTURE," SIR TI LIANG STRESSED.

UNDER THE NEW LAW, THE CHAIRMAN AND SIX OTHERS FORM A QUORUM.

THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, ENACTED ON JULY 12, 1990, CAME INTO OPERATION ON NOVEMBER 26, 1990. THE COMMISSION IS THE BODY WHICH MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR ON JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

EARLIER, THE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON THE COMMISSION WAS A MUCH DEBATED ISSUE AT THE TIME THE AMENDMENT BILL WAS EXAMINED THOUGH IT WAS AGREED BY ALL THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OVER THE PAST DECADE OR SO SINCE THE COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED, HAD ALWAYS ACTED FAIRLY AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY.

"THOSE WHO WERE IN FAVOUR OF KEEPING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON THE COMMISSION ARGUED THAT LAWYERS FROM HIS DEPARTMENT APPEARED IN A GREAT MANY CASES AT ALL LEVELS OF THE COURTS AND HE WOULD THEREFORE BE IN A POSITION TO OFFER USEFUL COMMENTS WHEN JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS WERE CONSIDERED.

"ON THE OTHER HAND THOSE WHO CONTENDED THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHOULD NOT BE A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION HELD THAT AS A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE, AND IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN NOT ONLY THE SUBSTANCE BUT ALSO THE APPEARANCE OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY, HE SHOULD NOT SERVE ON THE COMMISSION," HE SAID.

AFTER LONG AND CAREFUL DELIBERATIONS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MEMBERSHIP STAYS, IN LINE WITH JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSIONS OF MANY OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.

IN HIS SPEECH, THE CHIEF JUSTICE ALSO ELABORATED ON HOW THE COMMISSION ASSESSES CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION.

"WHEN IT IS KNOWN THAT THERE WILL BE A VACANCY AT ANY LEVEL BELOW THE HIGH COURT, NOTIFICATION IS SENT OUT TO THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE LAW SOCIETY. NOTIFICATION IS ALSO SENT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, REGISTRAR GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID.

"IN THE RECRUITMENT OF MAGISTRATES, THE VACANCIES MAY BE ADVERTISED IN ENGLAND AS WELL. A CLOSING DATE IS GIVEN FOR APPLICATIONS AND VERY OFTEN INTERVIEWS ARE HELD.

"FOR THOSE ALREADY WITHIN THE JUDICIARY WHO ARE ENTITLED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A MORE SENIOR POST, THE CHIEF JUSTICE RECEIVES ADVICE FROM A BODY CALLED THE JUDICIARY APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE," HE SAID.

THE COMMITTEE, SET UP YEARS AGO BY SIR TI LIANG'S PREDECESSOR, IS CHAIRED BY MR JUSTICE JONES AND ASSISTED BY A HIGH COURT JUDGE, A DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, AND THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE, WITH THE REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT, AS SECRETARY.

"BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES, WITH SOME OF WHOM I MAY NOT BE FAMILIAR, I CONTINUE TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THE COMMITTEE, ALTHOUGH IT BY NO MEANS PRECLUDES ME FROM FORMING MY OWN JUDGEMENT ON PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OR WHAT I LEARN THROUGH MY CONTACTS WITHIN THE JUDICIARY AND THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS.

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"IN THIS WAY, IT IS HOPED THAT INCORRECT ASSESSMENTS MAY BE VASTLY REDUCED IF NOT ENTIRELY ELIMINATED," THE CHIEF JUSTICE STRESSED.

SIR TI LIANG POINTED OUT THAT WHEN THE JUDICIARY APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE HAS MADE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE, AND WHEN ALL OTHER APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED, A PAPER IS PREPARED FOR THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION.

"THE PAPER WILL GIVE DETAILS OF THE POST OR POSTS TO BE FILLED, OF ALL CANDIDATES, AND WILL HAVE ATTACHED, FOR THOSE FROM WITHIN GOVERNMENT SERVICE, THE ASSESSMENTS RECEIVED FROM THEIR HEADS OF DEPARTMENT.

"IN ADDITION, THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION HAVE AVAILABLE TO THEM THE ANNUAL STAFF REPORT FILES FOR EVERY ELIGIBLE PERSON FROM WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE," HE SAID.

THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION WILL HAVE READ ALL THESE PAPERS BEFORE A MEETING IS HELD AND THEY THEN CONSIDER ALL THOSE ELIGIBLE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT FACTORS SUCH AS THE CANDIDATE'S LEGAL KNOWLEDGE, JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT AND PROPRIETY OF CONDUCT IN AND OUT OF COURT, TOGETHER WITH AGE, SENIORITY AND EXPERIENCE, AND KNOWLEDGE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS AND LANGUAGE, HE ADDED.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE EMPHASISED THAT THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS ITS MATTERS EXTREMELY THOROUGHLY, BEARING IN MIND THE OVERRIDING DUTY TO APPOINT THE BEST PEOPLE AVAILABLE TO JUDICIAL OFFICE WHILST, AT THE SAME TIME, BEING SCRUPULOUSLY FAIR TO ALL THOSE ENTITLED TO BE CONSIDERED.

ON THE POSTS IN THE HIGH COURT, SIR TI LIANG STATED THAT THE PROCEDURES TEND TO BE SLIGHTLY LESS FORMAL AND THE JUDICIARY APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE IS NOT ASKED TO ADVISE THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

"THOSE WITHIN THE JUDICIARY, WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ELEVATION TO THE HIGH COURT BENCH, ARE USUALLY WELL KNOWN TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. CERTAINLY THAT HAS BEEN SO IN THE PAST, ALTHOUGH, WITH A COMMISSION NOW INCLUDING MEMBERS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE LEGAL PROFESSION, THE POSITION WILL BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT.

"CANDIDATES FOR THE HIGH COURT BENCH FROM OUTSIDE THE JUDICIARY BUT FROM WITHIN HONG KONG WILL, INEVITABLY, BE WELL KNOWN AND, ALTHOUGH CERTAIN ENQUIRIES MAY HAVE TO BE MADE, THERE IS USUALLY LITTLE DOUBT IN THE COMMISSION ABOUT SOMEONE'S SUITABILITY OR OTHERWISE," HE SAID.

IT WAS HOWEVER A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT TO CONSIDER CANDIDATES FROM OUTSIDE HONG KONG (UP TO NOW ALWAYS ENGLAND) WHERE LESS WILL BE KNOWN AND MORE ENQUIRIES MAY BE CALLED FOR, BOTH HERE AND IN ENGLAND, ACCORDING TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

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NEVERTHELESS, SIR TI LIANG SAID THE JUDICIARY NOW HAVE FUNDS AVAILABLE SO THAT CANDIDATES, WHO ARE TO BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION, CAN BE INVITED TO COME TO HONG KONG, AT THE JUDICIARY'S EXPENSE, SO THAT MEMBERS AND LEADING FIGURES IN THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS CAN MEET HIM OR HER TO FORM A PERSONAL ASSESSMENT, AND THE CANDIDATE WILL ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FORM AN ASSESSMENT OF THIS CITY IN GENERAL AND THE JUDICIARY IN PARTICULAR.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS THE APPLICATION FOR THOSE EMPLOYED ON CONTRACT TERMS TO GO ONTO THE PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT, AND ALSO THE APPLICATION OF THOSE ON CONTRACT FOR A DEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME TO HAVE THEIR CONTRACTS RENEWED WHEN THESE EXPIRE BY EFFLUXION OF TIME.

"WHILST THE COMMISSION DOES NOT FEEL OBLIGED TO RECOMMEND A RENEWAL OF CONTRACT, THE INSTANCES OF REFUSAL ARE RARE, EXCEPT FOR THOSE MAGISTRATES WHO WISH TO STAY ON AFTER THE RETIREMENT AGE OF 60," HE MAINTAINED.

EXPLAINING WHY HE HAD GIVEN AN OUTLINE ON THE APPOINTMENTS, SIR TI LIANG SAID: "I AM GRATIFIED TO NOTE THAT THERE IS A HEALTHY DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS ARE MADE.

"THE PARAMOUNT OBJECTIVE IS A JUDICIARY OF QUALITY AND INDEPENDENCE WHICH COMMANDS PUBLIC CONFIDENCE; AND THE SYSTEM - NECESSARILY A HUMAN ONE OF COURSE - HAS BEEN FASHIONED TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE BY AN IMPARTIAL, FAIR AND EFFECTIVE PROCESS."

THE CHIEF JUSTICE CONCLUDED HIS ADDRESS BY ASSURING MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE AND PUBLIC THAT THE JUDICIARY WOULD DO ITS BEST - NOBODY FORGETS THE INTERESTS OF THE CANDIDATES AND AT THE SAME TIME, NOBODY IS ENTITLED TO PUT ANY INTEREST ABOVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

EARLIER, SIR TI LIANG ACKNOWLEDGED IN HIS SPEECH THE RETIREMENT OF MR JUSTICE O'CONNOR, WHO HAD LEFT THE JUDICIARY IN NOVEMBER 1990 AFTER 28 YEARS WITH THE JUDICIARY.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID MR JUSTICE O'CONNOR IS A HIGHLY RESPECTED JUDGE WHO HAD MADE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY WERE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION, MR ANTHONY ROGERS, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG, MR DONALD YAP.

THE CEREMONIAL OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR ORGANISED BY THE JUDICIARY WAS WELL ATTENDED BY JUDGES, MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION, HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES.

IT BEGAN WITH A CHURCH SERVICE AT CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL, CAINE ROAD, AT 3.30 PM.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY ADDRESSES IN THE CONCERT HALL OF CITY HALL WHICH FINISHED AROUND 6.30 PM.

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FREE HEALTH GUIDE ON USE OF VISUAL DISPLAY UNIT

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THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED A CONCISE GUIDE ON THE HEALTH ASPECTS OF VISUAL DISPLAY UNIT (VDU) UNDER ITS PROTECTION OF WORKERS' HEALTH SERIES FOR THE INFORMATION OF GENERAL VDU OPERATORS.

ENTITLED "HEALTH GUIDE ON THE USE OF VISUAL DISPLAY UNIT", THE BOOKLET AIMS TO CLEAR THE DOUBTS AND ANXIETY IN THE USE OF VDU, WHILE ADVISING ON WAYS AND MEANS TO MINIMISE OR PREVENT THE OCCURRENCE OF HEALTH COMPLAINTS.

THE GUIDE LOOKS INTO PROBLEMS COMMONLY THOUGHT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH VDU SUCH AS RADIATION, CATARACT, EPILEPSY, FACIAL DERMATITIS, MISCARRIAGE AND FOETAL ABNORMALITIES, MUSCLE PAINS, FATIGUE AND EYE STRAIN.

IT ALSO SUGGESTS VARIOUS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BEFORE OPERATING THE MACHINE AS RELATED TO THE JOB, THE EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE USED, THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND THE USER.

PUBLISHED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, THE BOOKLET IS NOW AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DIVISION AND ITS OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE UNIT REGIONAL OFFICES.

FURTHER ADVICE ON THE SUBJECT MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION ON 15TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, HONG KONG.

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WORK OF ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY PRAISED

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (MONDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY FOR THE IMPORTANT ROLE IT PLAYS IN PROMOTING WATER SAFETY.

SPEAKING AT THE CENTENARY RE-UNION DINNER OF THE SOCIETY'S HONG KONG BRANCH, THE GOVERNOR SAID EVERY YEAR THE LOCAL BRANCH TAUGHT THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE HOW TO SAVE LIVES, PREVENT ACCIDENTS IN THE WATER AND GIVE FIRST AID TREATMENT.

"THOSE WHO RECEIVE THIS TRAINING BECOME MORE CONFIDENT IN THEIR OWN ABILITIES.

"THEY ALSO HAVE THE GREAT SATISFACTION OF BEING BETTER EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS MORE AND MORE HONG KONG PEOPLE HAD FOUND THEIR RELAXATION IN WATERSPORTS.

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"IN THE SUMMER, OUR BEACHES ARE FULL OF FAMILIES ENJOYING THEMSELVES. IT IS GOOD TO SEE PEOPLE ENJOYING THEMSELVES IN THIS WAY.

"IT IS RIGHT THAT THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO IN SAFETY," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE SOCIETY FOR ITS DEDICATED SERVICE AND TO THOSE WHO GAVE UP THEIR FREE TIME TO TEACH, EXAMINE AND ORGANISE THE YOUNG LIFE-GUARDS.

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EARLY REGISTRATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS
AND MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS URGED

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PEOPLE PRACTISING AS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS ARE ADVISED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION BY JANUARY 31.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS BOARD AND THE MEDICAL LABORATORY BOARD SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT SOME OF THE APPLICANTS MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO SIT FOR A BOARD EXAMINATION WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL THIS YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APPLICANTS SHOULD HAND IN THEIR APPLICATIONS BY JANUARY 31 ALTHOUGH APPLICATIONS FOR FULL REGISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE ACCEPTED BEYOND THAT DAY.

"EARLY RETURN WILL ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE RELEVANT STATUTORY BOARDS TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES BEFORE AUGUST 1 AS WELL AS TO IDENTIFY AND NOTIFY WELL IN ADVANCE THOSE APPLICANTS WHO ARE REQUIRED TO SIT FOR THE EXAMINATION IN APRIL," HE SAID.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE EXERCISE IS TO PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION TO THE PUBLIC BY MAINTAINING ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS IN THE PRACTICE OF THESE TWO SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS.

"OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED BEFORE AUGUST 1 THIS YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE RELEVANT SECTIONS IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ORDINANCE IN RESPECT OF THESE TWO PROFESSIONS WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON AUGUST 1 THIS YEAR.

AFTER THAT DATE, UNREGISTERED PERSONS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PRACTISE IN THESE PROFESSIONS.

AS REGARDS PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION WHICH IS A ONE-OFF EXERCISE, APPLICATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED UNTIL JUNE 30 THIS YEAR.

/LATE APPLICATIONS

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LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AND THOSE WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION ARE DEEMED TO BE REGISTERED UNTIL THE RESULTS OF THEIR APPLICATIONS ARE KNOWN.

DETAILS ON THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES ARE CONTAINED IN A BOOKLET ON "GUIDE TO APPLICANTS".

THE BOOKLET TOGETHER WITH THE APPLICATION FORM CAN BE OBTAINED IN PERSON OR BY WRITING TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS BOARD AND THE MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD AT SUNNING PLAZA, SIXTH FLOOR, 10 HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THEY ARE ALSO OBTAINABLE FROM QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITAL AND TSAN YUK HOSPITAL ON HONG KONG ISLAND; KOWLOON HOSPITAL, LAI CHI KOK HOSPITAL AND QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL IN KOWLOON; CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL, FANLING HOSPITAL, KWAI CHUNG HOSPITAL, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL, ST JOHN HOSPITAL ON CHEUNG CHAU, SIU LAM HOSPITAL, SOUTH LANTAU HOSPITAL AND TUEN MUN HOSPITAL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 890 0843 OR 890 0514.

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THIRTEEN QUESTIONS FOR LEGCO MEETING ON WEDNESDAY

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 13 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER FOUR BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 9).

THE FOUR BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THEY ARE LANDS TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1990 AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATION BILL 1990.

DEBATE ON THE BILLS WILL BE ADJOURNED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTING FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES AND THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONING 844 0899.

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YAU TSIM FESTIVAL CONCERT TOMORROW

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A YAU TSIM DISTRICT FESTIVAL CONCERT WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG COLISEUM TOMORROW (TUESDAY). IT WILL BEGIN AT 7.45 PM.

THE ACTING REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR FUNG KWOK-KEUNG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, THE CONCERT WILL INCLUDE PERFORMANCES BY A POPULAR BAND AND SINGERS. THE PROGRAMME WILL FOCUS ON THE DISTRICT'S CHARACTERISTICS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT FESTIVAL CONCERT AT THE HONG KONG COLISEUM TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THEY ARE REQUESTED TO COLLECT THE ADMISSION TICKETS FROM THE RECEPTION COUNTER AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE COLISEUM AT 7.30 PM.

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