



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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OPEN, HONEST AND FREE TRADING SYSTEMS NEEDED: GOVERNOR

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SUSTAINED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPENDS ON OPEN MARKETS AND A RULE OF LAW, INSTEAD OF PROTECTIONISM AND THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY).

MR PATTEN ARGUED THAT PROTECTION AND SUBSIDY DID NOT JUST BREED INEFFICIENCY, THEY ALSO HELPED BREED CORRUPTION.

HE WARNED THAT PROTECTIONISM DID NO GOOD TO EUROPE.

"EUROPE MUST BE IDEOLOGICALLY FREE TRADING - THIS IS THE REAL CRUSADE FOR THE NEXT CENTURY," HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE EUROPE/EAST ASIA OPENING DINNER OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, THE GOVERNOR CAUTIONED THAT IF EUROPE DID NOT TAKE UP THIS COURSE, IT WOULD MULTIPLY ITS PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH THOSE FROM OUTSIDE EUROPE'S GATE.

"BEHIND BARRIERS OF REGULATION AND TARIFF, EUROPE WOULD NEITHER REINVIGORATE ITS COMPETITIVENESS, REVIVE THE QUALITY OF ITS PRODUCTS NOR BUY TIME TO REDUCE SOCIAL OVERHEADS."

TAKE AWAY THE STIMULUS OF COMPETITION, MR PATTEN SAID EUROPE WOULD BECOME "PLUMP, SLY AND INCOMPETENT".

HE HOPES THAT EUROPE, BOTH WEST AND EAST, CAN USE ITS GREATER EXPERIENCE OF REGIONAL CO-OPERATION TO GIVE A LEAD TO THE WORLD ON TRADE AND ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

HE SAID THE ONLY WAY TO GET SUSTAINED GROWTH AND TO DEAL CONTINUOUSLY AND PEACEFULLY WITH THE PROBLEMS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE IS "HONEST AND FREE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEMS".

MR PATTEN IS LOOKING FORWARD TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND IN DECEMBER.

"THE CONSEQUENCES IF WE DON'T ARE APPALLING TO CONTEMPLATE, THE PROSPECTS IF WE DO ARE FAR MORE PLEASING - REDUCED ECONOMIC DISTORTIONS, AND STEADY AND SUSTAINED OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AS MARKETS OPEN UP."

HE SAID NOT JUST HONG KONG, BUT ASIA AS A WHOLE WAS RIDING THE FUTURE'S WAVE.

"COUNTRY AFTER COUNTRY IN THIS REGION IS NOW OUTPACING THE WORLD. MARKET ECONOMICS ARE SPREADING SUNSHINE THROUGHOUT THIS PART OF THE WORLD," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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AGENDA TO FIND FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS

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THE BRITISH TEAM WILL CONCENTRATE ON AGENDA WHICH IS WHAT CAN BE DONE TO FIND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL BE FAIR, OPEN AND ACCEPTABLE, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

RESPONDING TO PRESS QUESTIONS ABOUT RECENT CRITICISM FROM CHINESE OFFICIALS AFTER VISITING THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I THINK IT IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO LOOK FOR POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE WAYS OF FINDING A SOLUTION RATHER THAN JUST TO CRITICISE US."

ASKED ABOUT OBJECTIVE CRITERIA FOR THE THROUGH TRAIN CONCEPT, HE SAID: "WHAT WE ACTUALLY WANT IS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE RULES OF THE GAME ARE CLEAR BEFORE 1995, NOT ONLY FOR WOULD-BE LEGISLATORS BUT ALSO FOR THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO VOTE FOR THEM.

"IT REALLY WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ELECTORATE IN 1995 WHEN THEY CAST THEIR BALLOT, NOT TO KNOW WHETHER THE PERSON THEY WERE VOTING FOR WOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL THROUGH TO 1999."

ON QUESTION ABOUT SEPARATING DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "THE IMPORTANT THING WHICH EVERYBODY HAS GOT TO RECOGNISE IS THAT TIME IS NOW EXTREMELY SHORT.

"WE ARE ACTUALLY CUTTING THINGS EXTREMELY FINE. WE HAVE TO HAVE IN PLACE, BY NEXT JULY, THE LEGISLATION FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

"SO TO TALK ABOUT SEPARATING THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, IT WOULD BE WELCOME IF IT WAS DONE IN THE WAY I SUGGESTED AND WE COULD GET ON WITH THOSE THINGS AND WOULDN'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THEM ENDLESSLY.

"BUT EVEN IF THAT WAS ACCEPTED, WE HAVE STILL GOT VERY LITTLE TIME TO DEAL WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ISSUES.

"SO IN MY VIEW, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THOSE MATTERS WHICH SHOULD BE NON-CONTROVERSIAL PUT ON ONE SIDE BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES."

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GOVERNOR TOURS SHAM SHUI PO

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TOURED SHAM SHUI PO THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON TO UPDATE HIMSELF WITH LOCAL CONDITION AND DEVELOPMENTS.

HIS FIRST STOP WAS THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB CENTRE FOR THE BLIND AT NAM CHEONG STREET. HE WAS BRIEFED THERE ON THE OPERATION OF AN EYE CARE CLINIC AND SAW THE COMPUTERISED PRODUCTION OF AN ASSORTMENT OF BOOKS INTO BRAILLE.

AFTERWARDS, HE VISITED APLIU STREET, WHICH IS WELL-KNOWN FOR ITS CONCENTRATION OF SHOPS SELLING SECOND-HAND HI-FIS, RELATED ACCESSORIES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS.

MR PATTEN THEN WENT TO SEE AN URBAN COUNCIL MARKET COMPLEX UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT THE JUNCTION OF KI LUNG STREET AND PEI HO STREET.

HE WAS ALSO BRIEFED BY LABOUR DEPARTMENT STAFF ON ASPECTS OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AT CONSTRUCTION SITE.

BEFORE CONCLUDING THE VISIT, HE MET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, URBAN COUNCILLORS AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS AT A RECEPTION AT THE NAM CHEONG DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE GOVERNOR WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW AND THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MS LINDA LAI.

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ESCALATOR SYSTEM OPENS TO PUBLIC USE

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THE CENTRAL MID-LEVELS ESCALATORS WILL BE OPENED FOR TRIAL USE BY THE PUBLIC STARTING 6 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 15).

AN OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD LATER.

THE SYSTEM STARTS AT TWO FOOTBRIDGES OVER DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, PASSING THROUGH THE CENTRAL MARKET, COCHRANE STREET, HOLLYWOOD ROAD, SHELLEY STREET, PEEL STREET THEN TERMINATING AT CONDUIT ROAD.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR ERNEST LEE, SAID DUE TO SPACE CONSTRAINTS, THERE IS INSUFFICIENT ROOM TO BUILD TWO SETS OF ESCALATORS FOR UPHILL AND DOWNHILL MOVEMENTS.

THUS, A TIDAL FLOW SCHEME IS OPERATED. THE ESCALATORS WILL GO DOWNHILL TO CENTRAL FROM 6 AM TO 10 AM AND THEREAFTER UPHILL UNTIL 10 PM.

/THE SYSTEM .....

THE SYSTEM WILL BE SWITCHED OFF DURING THE REMAINING PERIOD OF THE DAY WHEN THE VOLUME OF PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IS LIGHT. DURING THIS PERIOD IT MAY BE USED AS AN ORDINARY STAIR WALKWAY.

HE SAID IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC USE THE ESCALATORS IN THE PROPER AND SAFE MANNER, SOME PUBLICITY ITEMS BEARING MAINLY THE SAFETY GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED.

THESE ITEMS INCLUDE POSTERS SHOWING ROUTING, USERS' GUIDELINES, AND POCKET CALENDARS.

THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE, THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AT HARBOUR BUILDING, AND THE HANG SENG BANK HEADQUARTERS AND THREE OF ITS BRANCHES IN CENTRAL.

IN ADDITION, THESE ITEMS HAVE BEEN SENT TO 127 SCHOOLS, 178 MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, 490 OWNERS INCORPORATIONS AND SHOPS AND OFFICES IN 200 COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT FOR WIDESPREAD CIRCULATION SO THAT THE SAFETY MESSAGE CAN REACH AS MANY POTENTIAL USERS OF THE SYSTEM AS POSSIBLE.

MR LEE EMPHASISED THAT FOR THE CONVENIENCE AND SAFETY OF ALL CONCERNED, IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT COMMUTERS STRICTLY OBSERVE THE SAFETY GUIDELINES WHICH ARE EASY TO ABIDE.

THESE INCLUDE:

- \* HOLD THE HANDRAIL, STAND ON THE RIGHT FACING THE DIRECTION OF TRAVEL AND KEEP YOUR FEET AWAY FROM THE SIDES;
- \* DO NOT OBSTRUCT THE ENTRY/EXIT POINTS;
- \* DO NOT WALK AGAINST THE FLOW. DO NOT PLAY ON THE SYSTEM. DO NOT STAY ON A STATIONARY ESCALATOR/TRAVELATOR;
- \* CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT WHEN USING THE SYSTEM;
- \* BULKY OR HEAVY LOADS INCLUDING GOODS, HANDCARTS AND CYCLES ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE ESCALATORS/TRAVELATORS. PETS MUST BE CARRIED;
- \* DO NOT ACTIVATE THE EMERGENCY SWITCH EXCEPT IN AN EMERGENCY;
- \* FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE OPERATOR IN CHARGE OF THE SYSTEM.

THE SYSTEM WILL BE UNDER SURVEILLANCE DURING OPERATING HOURS BY FOUR ATTENDANTS ON THE SCENE AND BY ONE CONTROLLER IN THE CONTROL ROOM AT CAINE ROAD THROUGH A CCTV SYSTEM. A PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR DIRECTING PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS AND ISSUING SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS WHEN REQUIRED.

BOTH THE CCTV AND PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS ARE CONNECTED TO THE POLICE CONTROL CENTRE AT ARSENAL STREET.

THE POLICE CAN MONITOR THE SITUATION ON THE ESCALATOR SYSTEM THROUGH THE CCTV SYSTEM AND ADDRESS THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM WHEN NECESSARY.

OUTSIDE THE OPERATING HOURS, WATCHMEN WILL BE DEPLOYED TO PREVENT VANDALISM.

THE SYSTEM CROSSES MOST OF THE ROAD JUNCTIONS VIA FOOTBRIDGES. GRADE-SEPARATED ROAD CROSSING FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PEDESTRIANS EXCEPT AT STAUNTON STREET, ELGIN STREET AND MOSQUE STREET WHEN THE VOLUME OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IS SMALL.

ZEBRA CROSSINGS ARE PROVIDED AT THESE AT-GRADE JUNCTIONS TO ENHANCE SAFETY.

THE TRAFFIC SITUATIONS WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED BY TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AFTER OPENING.

THE USAGE OF THE SYSTEM WILL BE MONITORED. TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL CONDUCT STUDIES BEFORE AND AFTER THE OPERATION TO COUNT THE FLOWS OF CARS AND PEDESTRIANS WITHIN THE CATCHMENT AREA OF THE SYSTEM.

"IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT WILL NOT BE MATERIALLY AFFECTED BY THE OPENING OF THE CENTRAL-MID-LEVELS ESCALATORS AS THIS IS EXPECTED TO HELP RELIEVE THE PRESENT SUPPRESSED DEMAND ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES," MR LEE SAID.

ON THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE SYSTEM, SENIOR ENGINEER OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, MR MA LEE-TAK, SAID THE SYSTEM COMPRISED MECHANISED REVERSIBLE ONE-WAY ESCALATORS AND TRAVELATORS WITH WALKWAYS ALONGSIDE THE WHOLE ROUTE.

THE ROUTE MEASURES ABOUT 800 METRES IN LENGTH AND CLIMBS ABOUT 135 METRES IN HEIGHT. THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 20 ESCALATORS AND THREE TRAVELATORS.

APART FROM THE THREE AT-GRADE ROAD CROSSINGS AT STAUNTON STREET, ELGIN STREET AND MOSQUE STREET, THE ROUTE IS COVERED WITH TRANSPARENT POLYCARBONATE ROOFING SO THAT ADEQUATE DAYLIGHTING IS MAINTAINED ALONG THE ROUTE AND THE NARROW STREETS IT TRAVERSES.

LANDSCAPING WORKS AND QUALITY FINISHES MATCHING THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT ARE PROVIDED ALONG THE WHOLE ROUTE.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE SYSTEM BEGAN IN FEBRUARY 1991 AFTER THE FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVED \$204.6 MILLION (AT DECEMBER 1990 PRICES) FOR THE PROJECT. WORK HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED.

"DUE TO INFLATION AND PRICE FLUCTUATION DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF SEEKING A SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE," MR MA SAID.

THE ADDITIONAL SUM IS NOWHERE NEAR \$270 MILLION AS REPORTED IN A PRESS REPORT AND THE PROCESS IS IN LINE WITH THE STANDARD ARRANGEMENT TO ALLOW PRICE ADJUSTMENTS IN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS NOT AWARDED ON FIXED COST BASIS, MR MA ADDED.

TWO GOVT LOTS SOLD FOR \$445 MILLION

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TWO LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$445 MILLION AT THE PUBLIC LAND AUCTION HELD BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE FIRST LOT, LOCATED AT AREA 11 AT THE JUNCTION OF ON SUM STREET AND ON YIU STREET, SHA TIN WAS BOUGHT BY JACO LIMITED AT \$395 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$320 MILLION.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,200 SQUARE METRES, IT IS INTENDED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN (EXCLUDING DANGEROUS GOODS GODOWN) PURPOSES.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 23,940 SQUARE METRES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1997.

THE SECOND LOT IN TAK YIP STREET, TUNG TAU INDUSTRIAL AREA, YUEN LONG, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,555 SQUARE METRES WAS SOLD TO BETTERISE COMPANY LIMITED AT \$50 MILLION, WITH BIDDING OPENING AT \$40 MILLION.

IT IS INTENDED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN (EXCLUDING OFFENSIVE TRADE) PURPOSES, WITH THE FIRST FLOOR TO BE USED FOR REPAIRING MOTOR VEHICLES ONLY.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 17,064 SQUARE METRES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1996.

THE AUCTION WAS HELD IN THE CONCERT HALL OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI, AND CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR ROGER HARDING.

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INT'L DAY FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

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SOCIETY AS A WHOLE NEEDS TO BE PREPARED AND ABLE TO ACT RESPONSIBLY AND INTELLIGENTLY TO A DISASTER AS THAT COULD MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TRAGEDY AND TRAGEDY AVERTED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF AN EXHIBITION AND A SEMINAR TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION, MR ASPREY SAID THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD COMPREHENSIVE PLANS FOR COPING WITH NATURAL DISASTERS.

AND DESPITE THE REGULAR RECURRENCE OF SEVERE WEATHER, THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE CAUSED WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY LIMITED.

/HE NOTED, .....

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HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT NO PREPARATIONS OR PLANS COULD BE PERFECT NOR COULD THEY BE EXPECTED TO FORESEE AND COPE WITH ALL EVENTUALITIES.

"BUT WE ARE CONSTANTLY SEEKING IMPROVEMENT.

"IF AND WHEN EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT SOME PART OF OUR PLANS NEED TO BE IMPROVED, THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO MAKE THE CHANGES THAT ARE NECESSARY."

THE RAINSTORM WARNING SYSTEM, INTRODUCED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SEVERE RAINSTORM IN MAY LAST YEAR, IS A CASE IN POINT, HE ADDED.

MR ASPREY STRESSED THAT TO MAKE ANY DISASTER REDUCTION PLAN EFFECTIVE, VIGILANCE AND PLANNING ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT ALONE WERE NOT SUFFICIENT AND THE PUBLIC ALSO HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY.

HE HOPED THAT THE EXHIBITION AND SEMINAR WOULD INSTIL AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY, AND SO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR GOVERNMENT'S CONSTANT EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS IN HONG KONG.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING TODAY WERE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC WONG AND DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, MR PATRICK SHAM.

MR SHAM SAID THE PRIME CONSIDERATION IN ISSUING ANY WARNING WAS ALWAYS THE SAFEGUARDING OF HUMAN LIVES AND LIVELIHOOD - A PRINCIPLE OF PRIORITY THAT SHOULD NEVER BE ALTERED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE FIRST NEEDED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WARNING SYSTEM TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ANY NATURAL HAZARD AND TO AVOID A WEATHER-RELATED DISASTER.

OVER THE YEARS, THE WARNING SYSTEMS OPERATED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY FOR THE TROPICAL CYCLONES AND HEAVY RAINSTORMS HAVE UNDERGONE SOME CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED.

"THESE CHANGES ARE AIMED AT ENSURING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE WARNINGS AND THEIR TIMELY RECEIPT," HE SAID.

THE EXHIBITION AND THE SEMINAR WERE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY. THE LATTER WAS ATTENDED BY SOME 80 SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS.

AT THE SEMINAR, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY MR FRANKIE. LUI TALKED ABOUT CO-ORDINATION OF EMERGENCY WORK DURING NATURAL DISASTERS WHILE MR W M LEUNG OF ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND MR M L LAU OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKE ON FORECAST AND WARNINGS OF TROPICAL CYCLONES AND RAINSTORMS AND LIAISON WITH SCHOOLS DURING DISASTERS.

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UNIVERSITY TITLE FOR POLYTECHNIC,  
HK POLYTECHNIC AND BAPTIST COLLEGE

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THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) SUPPORTS IN PRINCIPLE PROPOSALS BY THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG AND THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE TO CHANGE TO UNIVERSITY TITLES.

UPGC CHAIRMAN, MR ANTONY K C LEUNG, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID UPGC HAD FORMALLY NOTIFIED THE THREE INSTITUTIONS OF ITS DECISION TO GRANT THEM SELF-ACCREDITATION STATUS AND TO SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE A CHANGE TO UNIVERSITY TITLE AS PROPOSED BY THE INSTITUTIONS EARLIER.

THE RECOMMENDATION OF GRANTING SELF-ACCREDITATION STATUS TO THE THREE INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT CONDITIONS WAS ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL IN JULY.

AT THE SEPTEMBER 1993 MEETING, THE UPGC EXAMINED THE ISSUE FURTHER, INCLUDING THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VALIDATION OF THEIR DEGREE COURSES, AGREED BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION.

"UPGC HAS AGREED THAT THE THREE INSTITUTIONS SHOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELF-ACCREDITATION WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT," MR LEUNG SAID.

THE THREE INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO SUBMIT DETAILED PROPOSALS TO ENABLE UPGC TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THEIR APPLICATION FOR UNIVERSITY TITLE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

THE INSTITUTIONS' SUBMISSIONS ARE EXPECTED TO INCLUDE THE PROPOSED NEW TITLE FOR THE INSTITUTION AS WELL AS DETAILS OF CHANGES IN THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE INSTITUTION.

UPGC WILL CONSIDER THESE PROPOSALS AT ITS NEXT MEETING IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR AND SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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GOVT STUDY ON ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY READY BY YEAR END

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A GOVERNMENT-COMMISSIONED CONSULTANCY STUDY TO IDENTIFY WAYS TO ENHANCE THE GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE 13TH HONG KONG ELECTRONICS FAIR, MR CHAU SAID HE EXPECTED THE STUDY WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL INFORMATION AND SUGGESTIONS TO MANUFACTURERS.

/MR CHAU .....

MR CHAU SAID THE CONSULTANCY STUDY, WHICH WAS PART OF A SERIES OF STUDIES ON INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES CONDUCTED ON A REGULAR BASIS, WAS ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES IN SUPPORTING FURTHER INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG.

IN ADDITION, FUNDS WILL SOON BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO FINANCE INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT PROJECTS, HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

"IT IS THE SECOND LARGEST EXPORT EARNER AMONG OUR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, AND EMPLOYS 60,000 WORKERS. IN 1992, IT ACCOUNTED FOR 26 PER CENT OF OUR TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY STILL HAD ROOM TO GROW, WHICH WAS PARTLY DUE TO THE VERY STRONG DEMAND FOR ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS IN CHINA.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, CHINA OVERTOOK THE UNITED STATES TO BECOME THE LEADING MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS.

"DURING THAT TIME, CHINA IMPORTED \$26 BILLION WORTH OF ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS FROM HONG KONG, A BIG JUMP OF 41 PER CENT FROM THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR," HE SAID.

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#### WORLD STANDARDS DAY TOMORROW

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HONG KONG WILL BE JOINING MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN RECOGNISING THE 24TH WORLD STANDARDS DAY WHICH MARKS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDISATION.

THE WORLD STANDARDS DAY IS CELEBRATED AROUND THE WORLD EACH YEAR ON OCTOBER 14 IN ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION (ISO) AND THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION (IEC).

"THIS DAY IS AN ANNUAL FOCAL POINT FOR PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS OF THOUSANDS OF EXPERTS WHO PREPARE THE STANDARDS," THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RICKY FUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS YEAR THE ISO AND IEC HAVE CHOSEN 'INFORMATION MANAGEMENT - FASTER AND BETTER WITH GLOBAL STANDARDS' AS THE THEME.

THE EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE ISO AND IEC WHICH HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL PRODUCT STANDARDS AND IN WORKING TOWARDS COMPATIBILITY OF SYSTEMS WORLDWIDE FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH MANUFACTURERS AND CONSUMERS.

HONG KONG MONITORS CLOSELY THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH STANDARDS IN THE ISO AND IEC.

MR FUNG SAID HONG KONG WAS AN EXPORT-ORIENTED ECONOMY AND ITS MAJOR MARKETS HAD BEEN PLACING INCREASING EMPHASIS ON QUALITY AND CONSUMER SAFETY IN RECENT YEARS.

A COMPREHENSIVE, POSITIVE INFORMATION SERVICE ON ALL STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, TESTING, CERTIFICATION AND RELATED TOPICS IN RELEVANT MARKETS AND FOR DOMESTIC USE WAS THUS CRUCIAL TO HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT, HE ADDED.

TO PROMOTE STANDARDISATION AND THE AWARENESS OF QUALITY IN HONG KONG, THE PRODUCT STANDARDS INFORMATION BUREAU OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1986 WITH ONE OF THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF COLLECTING, COLLATING AND DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS IN HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS MARKETS TO THE INDUSTRY.

THE BUREAU MAINTAINS A LIBRARY WITH ABOUT 80,000 VOLUMES OF NATIONAL STANDARDS OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ISSUED BY THE ISO AND IEC.

DIRECT ON-LINE COMPUTER LINKS WITH OVERSEAS STANDARDS INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN SET UP SINCE 1989 IN ORDER TO GAIN MOST UPDATED INFORMATION ON OVERSEAS STANDARDS.

A COMPUTER-ASSISTED INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM HAS ALSO BEEN INSTALLED SINCE 1991.

IN ADDITION, THE BUREAU OPERATES A SALES AGENCY SERVICE THROUGH WHICH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS CAN BE PURCHASED.

IT IS ALSO AUTHORISED TO REPRODUCE AND SELL PHOTOCOPIES OF AUSTRALIAN, BRITISH, EUROPEAN, ISO AND IEC STANDARDS TO FACILITATE USERS OF STANDARDS.

THE SALES AGENCY SERVICE HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE WELL-RECEIVED BY THE TRADE. FOR INSTANCE, THE VOLUME OF SALES HAS INCREASED 10 PER CENT DURING APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 1993 AS AGAINST THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF LAST YEAR.

THE BUREAU ALSO PROVIDES A TECHNICAL ENQUIRY AND ADVICE SERVICE WHICH AIMS AT EXPLAINING THE TECHNICAL CONTENT OF OVERSEAS SPECIFICATIONS AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, OFFERS SUGGESTIONS ON WAYS TO ENABLE A PRODUCT TO MEET THE STIPULATED REQUIREMENTS.

THE SERVICE HAS ALSO BEEN WELL-RECEIVED BY LOCAL MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS WITH THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES HANDLED INCREASED FROM 60 IN 1986 TO 1,170 IN 1992.

TO HELP THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR MAINTAIN ITS COMPETITIVENESS AND TO FOSTER ITS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT BY BUILDING UP A QUALITY-IMAGE INTERNATIONALLY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT MANUFACTURERS' OWN EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THEIR PRODUCTION.

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES IMPROVEMENTS TO HONG KONG'S EXISTING QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE, AND THE LAUNCHING OF A THREE-YEAR CAMPAIGN IN MARCH 1990 TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF QUALITY AWARENESS AMONG LOCAL MANUFACTURERS.

THE HONG KONG QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY HAS ALSO BEEN SET UP TO MANAGE A VOLUNTARY SCHEME FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF BUSINESSES, BASED ON THE ISO 9000 QUALITY MANAGEMENT STANDARDS.

SO FAR, OVER 80 LOCAL COMPANIES HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED TO THE ISO 9000 INTERNATIONAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT STANDARDS. A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF COMPANIES ARE IN THE FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION FOR THE ISO 9000 AUDIT.

APART FROM HELPING THE LOCAL INDUSTRY TO MEET VARIOUS OVERSEAS PRODUCT STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO CONSCIOUS OF THE SAFETY OF GOODS IMPORTED OR LOCALLY MADE FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION, MR FUNG SAID.

THERE ARE, FOR INSTANCE, CERTAIN REGULATIONS AND MEASURES RELATING TO SAFETY, INCLUDING THOSE GOVERNING SHIPS AND SHIPS REQUIREMENT, FOOD AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, ROAD TRAFFIC, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, FIRE SERVICES AND RADIATION.

"ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS SAFETY ORDINANCE WHICH WAS BROUGHT INTO EFFECT IN JULY THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

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#### REPATRIATION OF ECVII'S BY AIR

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A TOTAL OF 114 EX-CHINA VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (ECVII'S) WERE REPATRIATED TO HAINAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ON TWO FLIGHTS AT THE START OF A THREE-DAY REPATRIATION EXERCISE BY AIR.

THE TWO GROUPS COMPRISED 63 MEN, 34 WOMEN, 11 BOYS AND SIX GIRLS.

FOUR MORE FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO DAYS TO REPATRIATE SOME 220 ECVII'S TO HAINAN.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ MILLION
	-----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,435
REVERSAL OF LAF	-435
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	+1,000
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,281
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,719
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.1 *-0.1* 13.10.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.35 PCT	13 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.57	3.17
1 MONTH	2.52 PCT	16 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.84	3.36
3 MONTHS	2.66 PCT	19 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.26	3.61
6 MONTHS	2.82 PCT	22 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.66	3.72
12 MONTHS	3.11 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 16,121 MN

CLOSED OCTOBER 13, 1993

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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

## SUPPLEMENT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1993

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1993

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BILL SOON ON PROPERTY INHERITANCE: SHA

\* \* \* \* \*

SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, A NEW BILL TO EXEMPT ALL LAND, OTHER THAN RURAL LAND, FROM THE APPLICATION OF PART II OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ORDINANCE (NTO) WILL SOON BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON SUCCESSION RIGHTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE NEW LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT TO REMOVE ANY DOUBT IN EXISTING TITLES BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO INHERITANCE.

"I SHALL BE URGING FOR THE FULL SUPPORT OF HONOURABLE MEMBERS ON THE NEW BILL," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS WELL AWARE OF THE CONCERN EXPRESSED RECENTLY OVER THIS ISSUE, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ACTIVELY PURSUING MEASURES TO ALLAY PUBLIC ANXIETY AND TO ADDRESS ANY POTENTIAL PROBLEM WHICH PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES MAY FACE.

"WE HAVE ALREADY IMPLEMENTED ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES WITH EFFECT FROM JUNE THIS YEAR TO EXEMPT ALL NEW GRANTS OF LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE NTO, EXCEPT FOR RURAL LAND GRANTED TO INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS UNDER THE SMALL HOUSE POLICY OR LAND OWNED BY CUSTOMARY LAND TRUSTS ESTABLISHED BY CLANS AND FAMILIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES," HE ADDED.

AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP HAS ALSO BEEN SET UP RECENTLY TO GIVE ACTIVE CONSIDERATION TO EXCLUDING ALL NON-RURAL LAND FROM PART II OF THE NTO THROUGH LEGISLATIVE MEANS, MR SUEN SAID.

HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE GROUP HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS NO PROVISION UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION FOR GOVERNMENT TO USE ADMINISTRATIVE MEANS TO GRANT EXEMPTION UNDER THE NTO TO LAND ALREADY ASSIGNED AS UNDIVIDED SHARES TO INDIVIDUAL OWNERS, UNLESS ALL OF THEM JOIN TOGETHER TO APPLY.

MR SUEN SAID CUSTOMS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, LIKE THOSE EVERYWHERE ELSE, HAVE EVOLVED AND CHANGED OVER THE YEARS. THIS IS NORMAL IN ANY COMMUNITY.

"WE WILL NEED THE WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE BEFORE CONTEMPLATING ANY MEASURES TO CHANGE THESE CUSTOMS.

"TONIGHT THIS COUNCIL HAS COME OUT WITH A LOUD AND CLEAR MESSAGE. I HAVE LISTENED VERY CAREFULLY TO THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY HONOURABLE MEMBERS.

"I HOPE THAT TONIGHT'S DEBATE WILL ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO COME FORWARD WITH THEIR OWN VIEWS ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT SUBJECT BEFORE THE END OF THE CONSULTATION PERIOD FOR THE GREEN PAPER ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN," HE SAID.

/MR SUEN .....

MR SUEN STRESSED THAT THE CATALYST FOR CHANGE MUST BE EDUCATION.

"WE BELIEVE THAT STEPPING UP PUBLIC EDUCATION, AS WE ARE DOING, WILL CULTIVATE A BALANCED ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND MEN IN SOCIETY.

"IN THIS REGARD, THE PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN PAPER AND TODAY'S MOTION DEBATE ARE MOVES IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION," HE CONCLUDED.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM - A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

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ALTHOUGH HONG KONG HAS A GOOD HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WITH A "NO TURN AWAY" POLICY, THERE IS A NEED TO REFORM THE STRUCTURE SO AS TO MAKE IT BETTER.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, WHEN REPLYING TO COMMENTS BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS DURING THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT "TOWARDS BETTER HEALTH" IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

MRS WONG EXPLAINED THAT THE REASON FOR THE HEALTHCARE REFORM WAS SIMPLE.

SHE SAID: "ANY RESPONSIBLE AND CARING GOVERNMENT CANNOT BLIND ITSELF TO ESCALATING MEDICAL COSTS, THE NEEDS OF AN AGING POPULATION, THE CHANGING ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND NOT REACT.

"WE IN HONG KONG ARE MORE FORTUNATE IN THAT WE HAVE THE CHANCE TO DIAGNOSE OUR SYMPTOMS EARLY AND ACT TO PREVENT THEM FROM GETTING WORSE. IT IS NOT RADICAL SURGERY, BUT PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

"THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DO IN PUTTING FORWARD POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR CHANGE."

THUS, SHE STRESSED, THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT WAS NOT ABOUT FEE INCREASE BUT ABOUT STRUCTURAL CHANGE.

MRS WONG BELIEVED THAT CHANGE TO THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM MUST HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION FROM POLITICIANS, PROVIDERS, PROFESSIONALS AND THE PUBLIC.

IT MUST ALSO BE A GRADUAL, STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION.

"I ASK THAT WE FACE UP TO THE NEED FOR CHANGE. I ASK THAT WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO BE PART OF THE PROCESS," SHE SAID.

"OUR SYSTEM IS NOT SO MUCH ONE WHICH IS PEGGED TO COSTS. IT IS A SYSTEM WHICH IS PEGGED TO THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE PEOPLE," SHE ADDED.

SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT, MORE THAN 300 REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH ALSO MET HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITY LEADERS AND ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES; CONSULTED ALL DISTRICT BOARDS; AND HEARD THE VOICES OF THOUSANDS AT PUBLIC FORUMS ORGANISED BY DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES AND PATIENTS' REPRESENTATIVES.

THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ALSO RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF DR CHARLES BENNETT, THE WORLD-RENOWNED HEALTH ECONOMIST SPECIALLY ASSIGNED BY THE WORLD-HEALTH ORGANISATION TO EVALUATE HONG KONG'S HEALTH CARE REFORM OPTIONS, WHO OPINED THAT "CHANGES IN HONG KONG, AS IN ALL COUNTRIES, WILL TAKE TIME; HOWEVER, THE PROCESS IS HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION; AND HONG KONG OFFERS LESSONS FOR POLICY-MAKERS WHO ARE WORKING TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE IN OTHER COUNTRIES".

TURNING TO THE SPECIFIC OPTIONS IN THE DOCUMENT, MRS WONG NOTED THAT:

- \* THERE HAVE BEEN CLARION CALLS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE EXISTING HEALTH CARE SYSTEM;
- \* THERE IS FEAR THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF ITEMISED CHARGES WOULD LEAD TO PATIENTS BEING DENIED ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE; AND
- \* THERE HAS BEEN A STRONG BODY OF SUPPORT FOR SEMI-PRIVATE ROOMS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND THE CO-ORDINATED VOLUNTARY INSURANCE APPROACH.

ON ITEMISED CHARGES, THE SECRETARY BELIEVED THAT THE FEAR WAS BASED ON IGNORANCE AND SPREAD BY CONVENIENT CARPING.

THE STANDARDISATION OF ITEMISED CHARGES WILL ENSURE CONSUMER PROTECTION AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE SYSTEM, SHE SAID.

SHE HOPES THROUGH CLEAR DEMARCATION OF ITEMISED CHARGES TO STANDARDISE THE EXISTING PLETHORA OF DIFFERENT CHARGES IMPOSED BY DIFFERENT PUBLIC HOSPITALS.

SHE ALSO HOPES TO REDUCE UNCERTAINTY AND ANXIETY OF PATIENTS.

MRS WONG REITERATED THE SAFETY NET UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S "NO TURN AWAY" POLICY WHICH ENSURED THAT NO ONE WAS DENIED ADEQUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT THROUGH LACK OF MEANS.

"THIS IS IN THE LAW," SHE STATED. "THIS IS OUR POLICY. THIS WILL REMAIN OUR POLICY."

MAJORITY OF HK LAWS NEED ADAPTATION

\* \* \* \* \*

THE MAJORITY OF THE 587 ORDINANCES ON THE HONG KONG STATUTE BOOK WOULD REQUIRE ADAPTATION IN VARYING DEGREES.

THIS IS TO ENSURE THEIR CONSISTENCY WITH BOTH THE LANGUAGE AND THE SUSTANTIVE PROVISIONS OF THE BASIC LAW, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON EMILY LAU WAI-HING, MR MATHEWS TOLD LEGISLATORS THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAD AN ADAPTATION OF LAWS PROGRAMME TO AMEND THE HONG KONG ORDINANCES THAT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC LAW.

"UNDER THIS PROGRAMME, AN INITIAL REVIEW OF ALL THE ORDINANCES BY THE RESPECTIVE POLICY BRANCHES IS FIRST CARRIED OUT, FOLLOWED BY DETAILED STUDY AND ANALYSIS BY THE LOCALISATION AND ADAPTATION OF LAWS UNIT OF MY CHAMBERS."

PROPOSALS FOR THE ADAPTATION OF INDIVIDUAL ORDINANCES ARE THEN DRAWN UP AND DISCUSSED WITH THE CHINESE SIDE IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

"THE PROPOSALS WILL FORM THE SCHEDULES OF A NUMBER OF BILLS FOR ENACTMENT BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS TO TAKE EFFECT FROM JULY 1, 1997," SAID MR MATHEWS.

WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY PROBLEM IN THE INTERPRETATION OF THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS IN THE BASIC LAW, MR MATHEWS SAID UNDER ITS PROVISIONS, THE BASIC LAW WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY THE COURTS OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, OR IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF CHINA'S NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS.

HE ADMITTED THAT IN PREPARING THE REQUIRED ADAPTATIONS OF HONG KONG LAWS TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENCY WITH THE BASIC LAW, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO TAKE A VIEW ON THE MEANING OF CERTAIN OF ITS PROVISIONS.

"TO ENSURE THAT OUR VIEW COINCIDES WITH THAT OF THE CHINESE SIDE WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO CONSULT THEM."

CLEARLY, IF AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED WITH THE CHINESE SIDE ON THE ADAPTATION OF HONG KONG'S LAWS FOR COMPATIBILITY WITH THE BASIC LAW, THAT WOULD BE THE BEST MEANS OF ENSURING THAT NONE OF OUR LAWS WILL BE DECLARED TO BE IN CONTRAVENTION WITH THE BASIC LAW BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS UNDER ARTICLE 160 OF THE BASIC LAW," HE SAID.

GOVT DETERMINES TO SAFEGUARD INVESTING PUBLIC'S INTERESTS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE PROBE INTO THE ALLIED GROUP OF COMPANIES DEMONSTRATES THE ADMINISTRATION'S DETERMINATION TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF THE INVESTING PUBLIC AND TO FOSTER THE INTEGRITY AND REPUTATION OF THE MARKET.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR M D CARTLAND, IN A REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CARTLAND SAID THE INVESTIGATION HAD GONE WELL BEYOND THE PRODUCTION OF "JUST A REPORT".

"THE REPORT HAS ELICITED A POSITIVE REACTION FROM BOTH THE LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MEDIA AND HAS IN TURN GENERATED A HIGHER LEVEL OF PUBLIC AWARENESS REGARDING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE," HE ADDED.

THE INSPECTOR'S REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ON AUGUST 28 AND A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE REPORT WAS MADE PUBLIC ON SEPTEMBER 18.

IT WAS THEN REFERRED TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATORY BODIES, AS WELL AS THE 27 COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION FOR FURTHER ACTION.

"IT IS NOW FOR THEM TO DECIDE WHAT ACTIONS TO TAKE WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF AUTHORITY AND TO PURSUE THOSE ACTION ACCORDINGLY," HE SAID.

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DECISION SOON ON ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO DO WHAT CAN PRACTICALLY BE DONE TO ERADICATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE DISABLED AND TO ACHIEVE INTEGRATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID.

IT WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO PROCEED WITH THOSE REHABILITATION PROJECTS FOR THE DISABLED WHICH HAVE MET WITH LOCAL OBJECTION AS WELL AS TO BRING CONCERNED RESIDENTS ROUND TO ACCEPTING THOSE PROJECTS, SHE ADDED.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS WONG SAID RECENT OBJECTION BY LOCAL RESIDENTS TO THE SETTING UP OF REHABILITATION FACILITIES IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS MANIFESTED CLEARLY THAT DISCRIMINATION WAS A REAL PROBLEM, ALBEIT A LOCALISED ONE.

"PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE THE RIGHT TO BENEFIT FROM REHABILITATION SERVICES," SHE STRESSED.

"I WOULD LIKE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THEM AND TO THEIR ADVOCATES WHO HAVE ACTED WITH DIGNITY AND RESTRAINT IN THE FACE OF SUCH DISCRIMINATION."

MRS WONG RECALLED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CALLS EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR THE ENACTMENT OF ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

THE RECENT INCIDENT IN WHICH A PARENTS RESOURCE CENTRE IN TUNG TAU ESTATE WAS VANDALISED IS CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE AND CALLS FOR A RETHINK ON THE WAY FOWARD.

SHE NOTED THAT THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEM THE GOVERNMENT WAS FACING WAS DIRECT DISCRIMINATION IN THE FORM OF OVERT PREJUDICE, WHICH IN SOME CASES HAD TAKEN THE FORM OF PHYSICAL HARASSMENT.

"TO TACKLE THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM, I HOPE TO AIM AT EARLY NEXT YEAR FOR A DECISION TO BE REACHED ON ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION AND THE SCOPE IT SHOULD TAKE TO BEST SUIT LOCAL NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES," MRS WONG SAID.

SHE CALLED FOR THE FIRM SUPPORT FROM THE PUBLIC AT LARGE TO ELIMINATE EFFECTIVELY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

ON PUBLIC EDUCATION ON REHABILITATION, MRS WONG NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SPEND \$31 MILLION BETWEEN NOW AND 1996/97.

THE PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, WHICH WILL FOCUS ON THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF EX-MENTALLY ILL AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS, ARE TARGETED AT DISTRICT RESIDENTS.

THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION IN REHABILITATION HAS ALSO PUT IN PLACE A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM FOR MONITORING THE PROGRESS AND EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

IN ADDITION, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS OVER THE YEARS ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO IMBUING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PROPER UNDERSTANDING ABOUT AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

TOPICS RELATING TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE EXISTING CURRICULUM AT BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO INTRODUCE A NEW SUBJECT, "GENERAL STUDIES", IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER 1996 COVERING SUCH TOPICS AS THE NATURE, NEEDS, RIGHTS AND POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

AS A MORE IMMEDIATE MEASURE, A NEW EDUCATION TELEVISION SPECIAL PROGRAMME PROMOTING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE DISABLED IS BEING PREPARED FOR TRANSMISSION IN NEXT MARCH.

SCHOOLS ARE FURTHER ENCOURAGED TO ORGANISE VARIOUS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE SISTER SCHOOLS SCHEME AND COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB, TO ENHANCE STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING ABOUT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

INTERIM LOCALISATION POLICY A CORRECT DECISION

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THE REACTION TO THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY CIVIL SERVANTS SERVING ON OVERSEAS CONDITIONS WHO ARE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS HAS BEEN OUT OF PROPORTION TO THEIR LIKELY EFFECT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MRS ANSON CHAN, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HENRY TANG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS CHAN SAID THE BEST WAYS TO HEAL THE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE CAUSED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF THE REVISED POLICY WERE:

- \* TO CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT THE LOCALISATION POLICY VIGOROUSLY, BUT FAIRLY;
- \* TO DEVISE A NEW PACKAGE FOR CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT WHICH REMOVES THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CONDITIONS OF SERVICE; AND
- \* TO WORK TOWARDS A LONGER TERM SOLUTION IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES.

"THESE ARE THE DIRECTIONS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS MOVING," SHE SAID. "IN OTHER WORDS WE SHOULD LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND NOT TO THE PAST."

ASKED WHY THE RELEVANT STAFF ASSOCIATIONS AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WERE NOT CONSULTED BEFORE THE PROMULGATION OF THE REVISED LOCALISATION POLICY, MRS CHAN EXPLAINED THAT THE VIEWS AND THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED HAD BEEN MADE KNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENT.

"IF WE HAD PROCEEDED TO FORMAL CONSULTATION THIS COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY INTRODUCING A MORATORIUM ON A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE LOCALISATION POLICY," MRS CHAN SAID.

"IT WOULD SIMPLY NOT HAVE BEEN PRACTICABLE TO CONTINUE TO ENFORCE THE OLD POLICY ONCE THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN A VIEW, IN PUBLIC, THAT IT WAS DEFECTIVE.

"WE DID NOT FAVOUR THE MORATORIUM ROUTE BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE MEANT, EFFECTIVELY, A POLICY VACUUM.

"A BETTER APPROACH WAS TO INTRODUCE AN INTERIM POLICY PENDING FULL CONSULTATION ON LONGER TERM ARRANGEMENTS. WE STILL BELIEVE THIS WAS THE CORRECT DECISION," SHE STATED.

MRS CHAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT INDEPENDENT LEGAL ADVICE OBTAINED BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT THE PREVIOUS LOCALISATION POLICY IN SO FAR AS IT APPLIED TO PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG WAS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

"IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IRRESPONSIBLE TO IGNORE THE ADVICE AND TO CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT A POLICY WHICH WE BELIEVED TO BE DEFECTIVE," SHE ADDED.

MORE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON HK TO COME

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FIVE REPORTS ON HONG KONG WHICH ARE MADE TO THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE WILL BE DUE BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 30, 1997.

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL KEEP THE PRACTICE OF TABLING SUCH REPORTS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR C M LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SIMON IP SIK-ON, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE REPORTS DUE ARE:

- \* FOURTH PERIODIC REPORT UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (DUE JUNE 1994);
- \* THIRD PERIODIC REPORT UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (DUE JUNE 1994);
- \* THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH PERIODIC REPORTS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (DUE APRIL 1994 AND APRIL 1996 RESPECTIVELY); AND
- \* INITIAL REPORT UNDER THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (DUE JANUARY 1994)

MR SZE SAID THE PRACTICE OF TABLING THESE REPORTS IN THE LEGCO WAS STARTED WITH THE THIRD PERIODIC REPORT UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

MOREOVER, THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT HAS SUBMITTED THE REPORTS ON HONG KONG TO THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

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GOVERNMENT'S POLICY FOR EQUAL DEVELOPMENT OF LAND USE

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IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF LAND FOR ALL TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON SAMUEL WONG PING-WAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR EASON SAID:

/"IN PREPARING .....

"IN PREPARING OUTLINE ZONING PLANS TO REPLACE THE DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLANS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL INDEED TAKE ACCOUNT OF DEMAND FOR HOUSING, AS WELL AS THE PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE, ACCESSIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL, TRAFFIC AND OTHER PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS, IN ZONING LAND FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT."

HE SAID THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT RECEIVED 572 PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN AUGUST 1990 AND SEPTEMBER 1993 IN AREAS COVERED BY INTERIM DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLANS.

MOST OF THE APPLICATIONS WERE FOR SMALL HOUSE DEVELOPMENT INVOLVING SOME TWO MILLION SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA, HE SAID.

MR EASON NOTED THAT AT THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, 275 OUT OF THE 572 APPLICATIONS WERE APPROVED, INVOLVING A TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA OF 124,380 SQUARE METRES.

THERE WERE 247 REJECTED APPLICATIONS AND 50 WITHDRAWN, HE SAID.

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#### MEASURES TO CURB CRIMES AGAINST TENANTS

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THE POLICE, WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, NEXT YEAR, WILL MAINTAIN SEPARATE STATISTICS FOR OFFENCES AGAINST LANDLORD AND TENANTS (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON STEVEN POON KWOK-LIM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TO PREVENT SUCH CRIMES AND TO PROTECT THE TENANTS CONCERNED, PAMPHLETS ARE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH DISTRICT OFFICES AND RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT OFFICES TO HIGHLIGHT THE FACT THAT TO INTERFERE WITH A TENANT'S RIGHT TO REMAIN IN OCCUPATION OF RENTED PREMISES ARE CRIMINAL OFFENCES WHICH ARE LIABLE TO HEAVY PENALTIES.

MR ASPREY SAID: "ON RECEIVING COMPLAINTS OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES, INCLUDING THOSE ARISING FROM LANDLORD TENANT DISPUTES OR REPOSSESSION OF PREMISES, THE POLICE WILL CONDUCT THE NECESSARY INVESTIGATIONS."

WHERE APPROPRIATE, CHARGES WILL BE BROUGHT AGAINST THOSE HAVING COMMITTED CRIMINAL OFFENCES.

HE SAID THE POLICE ALSO HAD CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT AND HAD ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES TO DEAL WITH TENANCY DISPUTE MATTERS.

"IF THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY OFFENCE, THE POLICE WILL REFER THE CASE TO THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE BY MEDIATION", ASPREY ADDED.

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NO CHANGE TO MEDICAL FEE STRUCTURE

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THERE IS LITTLE JUSTIFICATION TO CHANGE THE PRESENT FEE CHARGING POLICY FOR SERVICES AT PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND CLINICS WITHOUT A THOROUGH OVERHAUL, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"AS THE EXISTING FEE STRUCTURE OF OUR MEDICAL SYSTEM IS ONE OF THE KEY ISSUES WHICH WE WILL ADDRESS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT 'TOWARDS BETTER HEALTH', WE WILL ASSESS THE NEED FOR CHANGE IN THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE," SHE SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG, MRS WONG SAID THE PRESENT FEE CHARGING POLICY RECOGNISED DIRECT FAMILY TIES AS A MAJOR FACTOR IN DETERMINING THE ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBSIDISED MEDICAL TREATMENT.

AT PRESENT, THE SPOUSE OF A HOLDER OF HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD WHO COULD PRODUCE A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY A COMPETENT AUTHORITY WAS CHARGED FEES ON THE BASIS OF AN ENTITLED PERSON.

THIS APPLIES WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION TO ALL FOREIGN NATIONALS MARRIED TO HONG KONG RESIDENTS.

THOSE WHO DO NOT SATISFY THIS CRITERION ARE CLASSIFIED AS NON-ENTITLED PERSONS AND ARE REQUIRED TO PAY THE FULL COSTS OF THEIR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION CONVENTIONS RATIFIED BY UK

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THE UNITED KINGDOM IS A CONTRACTING PARTY TO A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS ON ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AND ITS RATIFICATION FOR THEM HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO HONG KONG.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MAN SAI-CHEONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THESE AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS ARE THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (BONN CONVENTION), THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE ESPECIALLY AS WATERFOWL HABITAT (RAMSAR CONVENTION), THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA, THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER AND THE LONDON CONVENTION.

MR EASON SAID BRITAIN DID NOT MAKE ANY PLEDGE ON BEHALF OF HONG KONG FOR THE FULFILMENT OF COMMITMENTS IN FUTURE AT THE EARTH SUMMIT.

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FUNDS APPROVED FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS REMAIN UNUSED

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THERE ARE 13 PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS WHERE FUNDS APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS REMAIN YET UNUSED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE FUNDS REMAINED UNUSED ON PROJECTS BECAUSE:

- \* LAND RESUMPTION HAD TAKEN LONGER THAN ANTICIPATED ON TWO PROJECTS;
- \* THREE PROJECTS HAD BEEN ENTRUSTED TO OTHER AGENCIES TO CARRY OUT AND PAYMENT WAS ONLY MADE WHEN THE WORK HAD BEEN COMPLETED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S SATISFACTION;
- \* FOUR PROJECTS WERE BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER WHERE STAGED PAYMENTS WERE MADE AGAINST SPECIFIED CONTRACT MILESTONES. THE FIRST PAYMENT WAS TYPICALLY ONLY MADE NINE TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS AFTER CONSTRUCTION STARTED;
- \* TWO PROJECTS WERE AWAITING RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS; AND
- \* TWO PROJECTS HAD BEEN FUNDED FROM OTHER SOURCES.

HE ALSO SAID THERE SHOULD BE NO NEED TO RE-APPLY TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR EXTRA FUNDS. FUNDS REMAINED UNUSED WITHIN A PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT WERE NORMALLY RE-ALLOCATED TO FUND NEW PROJECTS AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL RESOURCE ALLOCATION EXERCISE, SUBJECT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL.

ON THE DELIVERY OF PROJECTS, MR DONALD TSANG SAID THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS HAD BEEN MADE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHAIRING THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRESS COMMITTEE TO MONITOR PROGRESS ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS AND TO INTRODUCE REMEDIAL ACTION IF NECESSARY.

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KARAOKE LOUNGES SUBJECT TO FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENT

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AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN SET UP TO STUDY OPTIONS FOR THE REGULATION OF KARAOKE LOUNGES.

THIS WAS STATED BY SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A REPLY TO DR THE HON TANG SIU-TONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AMONG OTHER THINGS, A LICENSING SYSTEM WILL BE CONSIDERED, TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF UNDERAGE GIRLS WORKING IN KARAOKE ESTABLISHMENTS, AND TO PRESCRIBE HYGIENE, FIRE AND BUILDING SAFETY REQUIREMENTS, HE SAID.

ALL PREMISES ARE SUBJECT TO FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE AND THE FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE.

"THIS IS THE CASE WITH ALL KARAOKE LOUNGES, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NOT SUBJECT TO ANY SPECIAL FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS," HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT ESTIMATED THAT AS AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, 727 ESTABLISHMENT OFFERING KARAOKE ENTERTAINMENT WERE IN OPERATION.

OF THESE, 495 ARE OPERATED AS CLUBS OR LICENSED AS PLACES PROVIDING FOOD OR LIQUOR, WHILE THE REMAINING 232 ARE OPERATING ONLY ON THE BASIS OF A BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE IN BOTH RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL PREMISES.

HE SAID THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS THAT LICENSED KARAOKE ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FAILING TO COMPLY WITH FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS, OR THAT THEY POSED A GREATER FIRE RISK THAN OTHER PREMISES OR ESTABLISHMENTS.

IN 1991, THERE WAS NO MAJOR FIRE IN A KARAOKE ESTABLISHMENT. IN 1992, THERE WAS ONE MAJOR FIRE IN A KARAOKE ESTABLISHMENT. THERE HAS BEEN ONE SO FAR THIS YEAR.

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NO SPECIFIC REGULATION ON AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINES

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THERE IS NO SPECIFIC INDUSTRY-WIDE REGULATION ON THE FUNCTIONING AND MAINTENANCE OF AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINES (ATMS), BUT INCIDENTS OF ERROR ARE FEW.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR M D CARTLAND, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CARTLAND SAID INDIVIDUAL BANKS HAD THEIR OWN INTERNAL REGULATIONS TO PREVENT ATMS' MECHANICAL FAILURE OR TAMPERING, AS IT WAS IN THEIR INTEREST TO ENSURE ITS RELIABILITY AND INTEGRITY.

CUSTOMER IN DISPUTE WITH A BANK OVER ATM TRANSACTIONS MAY APPROACH THE CONSUMER COUNCIL OR SEEK REDRESS THROUGH THE COURTS, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE ATMS AND THE PROTECTION METHODS EMPLOYED IN HONG KONG WERE IN LINE WITH THOSE ADOPTED BY OTHER LEADING FINANCIAL CENTRES.

STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES INCLUDE THE USE OF ENCRYPTED PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS, ENCRYPTION OF SENSITIVE TRANSACTION DATA AND OTHER AUDIT MEASURES.

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NEED TO EDUCATE PUBLIC ON USE OF CHINESE HERBS

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE THE PRACTICE OF RELEASING THE NAMES OF THE CHINESE HERBS WHICH HAVE CAUSED POISONING, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HOWARD YOUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE SAFE AND PROPER USE OF CHINESE HERBS.

"THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THROUGH ITS HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, PROVIDES INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC ON THE TOXIC EFFECT OF POTENT HERBS AND ON HOW THEY SHOULD BE HANDLED," SHE NOTED.

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN 23 REPORTED CASES OF POISONING INVOLVING THE USE OF CHINESE HERBS.

OF THESE CASES, 22 WERE CAUSED BY THE IMPROPER USE OF CHUANWU AND CAOWU DUE TO OVERDOSAGE, INCOMPLETE CURING OF THE HERBS OR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON PREPARATION.

THE REMAINING CASE WAS CAUSED BY THE MISTAKEN USE OF NAOYANGHUA INSTEAD OF LINGXIAOHUA.

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GAMBLING RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO SHIPS WITHIN HK WATERS

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CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON GAMBLING APPLY TO ACTIVITIES WHICH TAKE PLACE ON BOARD SHIPS PLYING WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG, MR SUEN SAID THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT UNLAWFUL GAMBLING ACTIVITIES WERE TAKING PLACE ON BOARD VESSELS WITHIN THE PORT.

HOWEVER, MR SUEN SAID THERE WERE PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES WITH RESPECT TO HONG KONG'S EXTRA TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OVER ACTIVITIES WHICH TOOK PLACE ON BOARD VESSELS CARRYING PASSENGERS FROM HONG KONG TO THE HIGH SEAS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT POLICY TO ATTEMPT TO CONTROL GAMBLING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF VESSELS WHICH ARE BASED IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRST PRIORITY IS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL THE CREW AND PASSENGERS ABOARD.

THE RECENT FIRE ON THE PANAMA-REGISTERED SHIP "NEW ORIENT PRINCESS" SERVED TO SHOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CORRECT IN TAKING STEPS TO CONTROL FIRE AND MARINE SAFETY STANDARDS OF THESE VESSELS.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE FIRM ACTION TO ENSURE THAT FOREIGN PASSENGER SHIPS BASED IN HONG KONG AND ENGAGED ON EXCURSION VOYAGES WOULD MEET THE SAME SAFETY STANDARD AS APPLIED TO LOCAL REGISTERED VESSELS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, EVEN THE TWO VESSELS CARRYING PASSENGERS FROM HONG KONG FOR GAMBLING ACTIVITIES ON THE HIGH SEAS HAVE BEEN INSPECTED AND PASSED THE EXAMINATION, HE SAID.

MEANTIME, MR SUEN ALSO ASSURED COUNCILLORS THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE ACTIVITIES OF ALL SHIPS USING THE PORT, INCLUDING THOSE ON EXCURSION VOYAGES.

AND NO DISTINCTION WILL BE MADE BETWEEN VESSELS OPERATING EXCURSION VOYAGES TO THE OPEN SEA AND THOSE PLYING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND NEARBY PORTS.

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#### RENTS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES ARE LOWER THAN COST

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"COST RENT" HAS NO DIRECT BEARING ON THE RENTS SET FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S ESTATES WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SUCH FACTORS AS TENANTS' AFFORDABILITY, COMPARATIVE ESTATE VALUES, INFLATION, GENERAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME TRENDS, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE AND RATES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR EASON SAID THEORETICALLY RENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE SET TO RECOVER THE AMORTISED CAPITAL COST AND OPERATING EXPENSES IN PROVISION OF PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING, BUT IN PRACTICE, THE RENTS CHARGED WERE LOWER THAN THE COST RENT FIGURES, WHICH WERE USED AS REFERENCE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE COST RENT FIGURES FOR NEWLY COMPLETED ESTATES WERE DERIVED FROM TENDER PRICES FOR INDIVIDUAL BUILDING PROJECTS AND THEIR PROVISIONAL RATEABLE VALUES, AND THEREFORE THE COST RENT FIGURES FOR NEW ESTATES, ESTATES IN URBAN AREA AND THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE DIFFERENT.

CONCERNING THE METHODOLOGY AND FACTORS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, MR EASON NOTED THAT THE CAPITAL COST COMPRISED BUILDING COST, FEES, OVERHEADS, AS WELL AS INTEREST CHARGES DURING CONSTRUCTION.

"THE CAPITAL COST IS DEPRECIATED, ON A STRAIGHT LINE BASIS, OVER THE EXPECTED LIFE-SPAN OF THE BUILDING OVER 40 YEARS WITH INTEREST AT 5%. ADDED TO THIS ARE THE OPERATING EXPENSES MADE UP OF MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE CHARGES AND PROVISIONAL RATES ETC.

"THE TWO COMPONENTS PUT TOGETHER BECOME THE ANNUAL COST NEEDED TO PRODUCE AND UPKEEP A BATCH OF ESTATES, WHICH IS THEN TRANSLATED INTO AN AVERAGE MONTHLY COST RENT FOR COMPARISON PURPOSE IN RENT SETTING EXERCISE," HE SAID.

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CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR ACADEMIC STAFF  
IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS  
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ACADEMIC STAFF IN THE NINE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG ARE APPOINTED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR ACADEMIC STRENGTH AND EXPERTISE, PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE, PERSONAL QUALITIES AND, FOR CERTAIN DISCIPLINES, INTERNATIONAL LINKS.

SOME INSTITUTIONS GIVE PRIORITY TO LOCAL CANDIDATES WHERE SUCH CANDIDATES SATISFY THE INSTITUTION'S APPOINTMENT REQUIREMENTS EQUALLY WELL AS THOSE FROM OVERSEAS.

OTHERS RECRUIT THEIR ACADEMIC STAFF ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS WITH NO REGARD TO SUCH OTHER ATTRIBUTES AS RACE, NATIONALITY, OR PLACE OF ORIGIN.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LI WAH-MING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FOR 1993/94, THE NUMBER OF LOCAL AND OVERSEAS ACADEMIC STAFF EMPLOYED BY THE NINE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS TOTALLED 2,463 AND 1,221 RESPECTIVELY.

MR LEUNG SAID THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LOCAL AND OVERSEAS TERMS WERE MAINLY IN ELIGIBILITY FOR PASSAGE AND BAGGAGE ALLOWANCES, HOUSING BENEFITS AND OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCE.

"THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR THESE INSTITUTIONS' OVERSEAS STAFF MUST BE KEPT SIMILAR TO THOSE OFFERED TO EXPATRIATE STAFF IN THE CIVIL SERVICE," HE ADDED.

MR LEUNG NOTED THAT THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE WAS REVIEWING ITS TOTAL REMUNERATION PACKAGE WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING A NEW PACKAGE WITH COMMON TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS STAFF.

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CRITERIA FOR OPERATING A SCHOOL  
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AN ORGANISATION MAKING AN APPLICATION TO OPERATE A SCHOOL UNDER THE CODES OF AID MUST BE A NON-PROFIT-MAKING ENTITY, HAVING OBTAINED TAX EXEMPTION UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

IN ADDITION, IT MUST BE INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE. ITS MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION MUST CONTAIN STANDARD CLAUSES SPECIFIED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, SUCH AS PRUDENTIAL CONTROL AND THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

/THIS WAS .....

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON PHILIP WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT, WHEN CONSIDERING SUCH AN APPLICATION, TOOK INTO ACCOUNT A NUMBER OF FACTORS:

- \* WHETHER THE ALLOCATION WOULD RESULT IN QUALITY EDUCATION BEING PROVIDED;
- \* WHETHER THE ALLOCATION WOULD HELP IN THE SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED POLICIES; AND
- \* WHETHER THE ALLOCATION WOULD PROVIDE A WIDER RANGE OF CHOICES FOR PARENTS.

"TO ENSURE PROPER MANAGEMENT AND EFFICIENT OPERATION," MR LEUNG EXPLAINED, "A NEW SCHOOL WOULD ONLY BE ALLOCATED TO AN ORGANISATION WITH EXPERIENCE IN EDUCATION, PROVEN COMPETENCE, RELIABILITY AND A SOUND FINANCIAL FOOTING.

"UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, A NEW SCHOOL WOULD BE ALLOCATED TO A NEW ORGANISATION, OR TO AN EXISTING SPONSORING BODY WHICH IS NOT ALREADY OPERATING ANOTHER SCHOOL AT THE SAME LEVEL IN THE SAME DISTRICT."

THE REPUTATION AND POPULARITY OF THE APPLICANTS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, HE ADDED.

IN THE CASE OF REPROVISIONING SCHOOLS IN AREAS OF DECLINING DEMAND TO AREAS OF RISING DEMAND, THE CLAIMS OF EXISTING SCHOOL OPERATORS WOULD BE CONSIDERED.

WHEN ALL OTHER FACTORS ARE EQUAL, THE SECRETARY NOTED, THE GOVERNMENT WILL THEN CONSIDER THE LENGTH OF TIME FOR WHICH THE APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN OUTSTANDING.

AS AT SEPTEMBER 30 THIS YEAR, 134 AND 77 ORGANISATIONS HAVE APPLIED FOR THE ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS RESPECTIVELY.

OF THE TOTAL, 136 APPLICATIONS WERE SUBMITTED MORE THAN FIVE YEARS AGO, 72 BETWEEN ONE AND FIVE YEARS, AND THE REMAINING THREE WERE SUBMITTED IN THE PAST YEAR.

FILIPINO DRIVERS IN HONG KONG

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TWO MALE PERSONS FROM THE PHILIPPINES HAVE BEEN ADMITTED INTO HONG KONG UNDER THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME FOR EMPLOYMENT AS DRIVERS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON SAMUEL WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR BARMA SAID THEY WERE REQUIRED TO TAKE DRIVING TESTS CONDUCTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES) REGULATIONS.

THEY BOTH PASSED THE TESTS AND WERE ISSUED WITH A DRIVING LICENCE BEFORE TAKING UP EMPLOYMENT.

MR BARMA SAID THE SAME REQUIREMENT WOULD APPLY TO FILIPINOS COMING TO HONG KONG FOR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT AS DRIVERS UNDER THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME IN FUTURE.

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PENALTIES FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY OFFENCES TO GO UP

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO RAISE SUBSTANTIALLY THE PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AND INCREASE THEIR DETERRENT EFFECT.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID THE CURRENT MAXIMUM FINES FOR THE OFFENCES, RANGING FROM \$5,000 TO \$50,000 PLUS 12 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT, WERE CONSIDERED GENERALLY TOO LOW AS MOST OF THE MAXIMUM FINES HAD NOT BEEN REVISED SINCE 1981.

HE WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

UNDER THE BILL, THE NEW MAXIMUM FINE IS \$10,000 FOR MINOR OFFENCES, \$50,000 FOR SERIOUS OFFENCES, AND \$200,000 WITH OR WITHOUT IMPRISONMENT FOR VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES.

MR LEUNG EXPLAINED THAT "MINOR OFFENCES" WERE MAINLY TECHNICAL BREACHES OF STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS FAILURE TO KEEP RECORDS OF REGISTERS, ABSENCE OF STATUTORY WARNING NOTICES OR SIGNS.

"SERIOUS OFFENCES" INVOLVE RELATIVELY SERIOUS BREACHES OF SAFETY REGULATIONS, BUT NORMALLY NOT CAUSING VERY SERIOUS BODILY HARM. THESE INCLUDE FAILURE TO MARK THE MAXIMUM SPEED OF ABRASIVE WHEELS OR POOR WORKPLACE LIGHTING.

/"VERY SERIOUS .....

"VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES" ARE THOSE WHICH MAY CAUSE IMMINENT RISK OF FATALITY OR VERY SERIOUS BODILY INJURY SUCH AS LACK OF PROTECTION TO PREVENT FALLING FROM HEIGHT, OUTBREAK OF EXPLOSION AND GRAVE FIRE HAZARDS.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSED TO EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO ISSUE CODES OF PRACTICE.

MR LEUNG SAID: "THE CURRENT SAFETY AND HEALTH REGULATIONS PROVIDE FOR SAFETY REQUIREMENTS BUT MAY NOT CONTAIN SUFFICIENT DETAILS ON PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS FOR EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS TO FOLLOW."

TO SUPPLEMENT THE LEGAL PROVISIONS, IT IS DESIRABLE TO PREPARE CODES OF PRACTICE, WRITTEN IN LAYMAN'S LANGUAGE, ON SPECIFIC REGULATIONS OR SUBJECTS TO PROVIDE FOR PRECISE STANDARDS AND PRACTICAL GUIDANCE.

"FAILURE TO OBSERVE A PROVISION OF THE CODES OF PRACTICE SHALL NOT BY ITSELF RENDER A PERSON LIABLE TO CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, BUT IN ANY CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, THE COURT OR MAGISTRATE MAY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANY PROVISION OF A CODE OF PRACTICE WHICH APPEARS TO BE RELEVANT TO ANY LIABILITY IN QUESTION," HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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#### MORE POWER FOR LABOUR CHIEF PROPOSED

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A BILL THAT SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO MAKE REGULATIONS UNDER THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID UNDER THE BILL, THE POWER OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE SAFETY STANDARDS, NUMBERING OF BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS, CONTROL OF THEIR OPERATION AND FEES WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS AUTHORITY WHO IS AT PRESENT THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR.

THE AUTHORITY IS ALREADY GIVEN THE POWER TO MAKE OTHER SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION UNDER THE EXISTING ORDINANCE, NAMELY, TO PRESCRIBE THE FORM OF A CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS AND A CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY AND OF ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENT, MR LEUNG SAID.

"THE BILL, IF APPROVED, WOULD REDUCE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S WORKLOAD IN MAKING SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION OF A TECHNICAL NATURE," HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WENDESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1993

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LEGCO ASKS GOVT TO HEED FULL PUBLIC VIEW ON MEDICAL PAPER

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE FULL VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE COMMUNITY ON THE "CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON MEDICAL FEES, CHARGES, WAIVERS AND INSURANCE".

TWENTY-SIX MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE FOUR-HOUR DEBATE, MOVED BY DR THE HON LAM KUI-CHUN. THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

ANOTHER MOTION MOVED BY REV THE HON FUNG CHI-WOOD URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY WITH THE RELEVANT LAW REFORMS IN THE SUCCESSION RIGHTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS ALSO PASSED.

A TOTAL OF 23 MEMBERS SPOKE FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS IN THE MOTION DEBATE. THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, REPLIED FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

ANOTHER MOTION MOVED BY THE HON ELSIE TU TO AMEND LEGCO'S STANDING ORDERS UNDER THE HONG KONG ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS 1917 TO 1992 WAS ALSO PASSED.

MRS TU WAS ELECTED THE LEGCO PRESIDENT'S DEPUTY.

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