



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES SURVEY  
FOR SEPTEMBER 1991 RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN SEPTEMBER 1991, ESTIMATED AT \$11,839.3 MILLION, INCREASED BY 26.0% WHEN COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990, WHILE THEIR VOLUME INCREASED BY 20.3%, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS ANNOUNCED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

THE MARKED INCREASES WERE PARTLY DUE TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF CONSUMPTION SPENDING BY BOTH LOCAL RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS.

A LOW BASE OF COMPARISON IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, WHEN CONSUMER SENTIMENT WAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE GULF CRISIS, ALSO CONTRIBUTED.

ANALYSED BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET, SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS FOR JEWELLERY, WATCHES AND CLOCKS, AND VALUABLE GIFT INCREASED BY 41.9% IN VALUE AND 49.4% IN VOLUME IN SEPTEMBER 1991 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990.

SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS FOR CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS INCREASED BY 38.7% IN VALUE AND 31.7% IN VOLUME.

WITHIN THIS GROUP, SALES OF DEALERS IN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS WENT UP BY 52.7% IN VALUE AND 39.6% IN VOLUME, WHILE SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS FOR OTHER CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS ROSE BY 28.8% IN VALUE AND 26.2% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS FOR CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS WENT UP BY 20.2% IN VALUE AND 13.5% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED BY 19.7% IN VALUE AND 13.3% IN VOLUME. SALES OF SUPERMARKETS ROSE BY 10.7% IN VALUE BUT WERE VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED IN TERMS OF VOLUME.

SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS (OTHER THAN SUPERMARKETS) FOR FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 6.4% IN VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 4.3% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS FOR FUELS WENT UP BY 0.3% IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 5.2% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS FOR OTHER CONSUMER GOODS NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED WENT UP BY 50.0% IN VALUE AND 40.4% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 16.1% IN VALUE AND 8.9% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING WITH AUGUST 1991, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN SEPTEMBER 1991 DECREASED BY 3.1% IN VALUE AND 3.3% IN VOLUME.

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CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES ARE DERIVED FROM FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER HAVING ADJUSTED FOR PRICE CHANGES.

THE INDICATORS OF PRICE CHANGES USED FOR THE PURPOSE ARE THE RESPECTIVE COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE BROAD CATEGORY OF GOODS IN QUESTION.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE SEPTEMBER 1991 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$1.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 802 1258.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR AUGUST 1991 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR SEPTEMBER 1991.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1991 FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS AND BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET, WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100. COMPARISONS OF SEPTEMBER 1991 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR AUGUST 1991 AND WITH THOSE FOR SEPTEMBER 1990, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER OF 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

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TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for September 1991 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$11,839.3 million  
 for August 1991 (Revised Figure) = HK\$12,212.0 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR AUGUST 1991 AND SEPTEMBER 1991

(Monthly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	August 1991	September 1991	September 1991 compared with August 1991		September 1991 compared with September 1990		Jan.-Sep. 1991 compared with Jan.-Sep. 1990	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
<b>(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS</b>									
	Value	130.0	126.1	-4.0	-3.1	+26.0	+26.0	+16.1	+16.1
	Volume	120.3	116.4	-3.9	-3.3	+19.6	+20.3	+8.9	+8.9
<b>(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET:</b>									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	114.1	117.6	+3.5	+3.1	+7.1	+6.4	+13.1	+13.3
	Volume	98.5	101.8	+3.3	+3.3	-4.5	-4.3	+2.5	+2.6
Supermarkets	Value	122.0	123.8	+1.8	+1.5	+12.0	+10.7	+13.0	+12.7
	Volume	106.4	107.9	+1.4	+1.3	‡	‡	+2.0	+1.9
Fuels	Value	126.2	127.3	+1.1	+0.9	+0.3	+0.3	+20.6	+20.4
	Volume	103.6	104.3	+0.7	+0.7	-5.7	-5.2	+2.7	+2.8
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	137.3	111.5	-25.9	-18.8	+18.7	+20.2	+20.5	+20.8
	Volume	128.0	102.7	-25.3	-19.8	+12.2	+13.5	+12.7	+12.9
Consumer durable goods*	Value	148.9	144.1	-4.8	-3.2	+40.2	+38.7	+19.3	+18.8
	Volume	138.8	133.5	-5.3	-3.8	+32.2	+31.7	+12.6	+12.3
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	152.0	156.4	+4.5	+2.9	+54.0	+52.7	+14.7	+14.1
	Volume	134.7	138.3	+3.6	+2.7	+39.3	+39.6	+4.1	+4.0
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	146.7	135.2	-11.5	-7.8	+30.3	+28.8	+22.7	+22.3
	Volume	141.7	130.0	-11.7	-8.3	+27.0	+26.2	+18.7	+18.4
Department stores	Value	124.7	110.1	-14.6	-11.7	+18.2	+19.7	+11.0	+11.2
	Volume	117.1	101.4	-15.7	-13.4	+11.9	+13.3	+4.5	+4.6
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gift	Value	131.3	136.3	+5.1	+3.9	+40.3	+41.9	+14.5	+14.5
	Volume	132.2	140.7	+8.5	+6.4	+46.5	+49.4	+13.8	+13.9
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	125.0	128.5	+3.5	+2.8	+42.8	+50.0	+19.3	+19.1
	Volume	115.9	117.9	+2.0	+1.7	+33.9	+40.4	+13.3	+13.2

NOTE : \* This covers both "Motor vehicles and parts" and "Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts".  
 ‡ Denotes a figure within  $\pm 0.05$

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GREAT IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO SCIENTIFIC AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT

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HONG KONG ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT, NOT ONLY IN KEEPING ABREAST OF LATEST PROGRESS BUT ALSO IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL SCIENCE, LADY WILSON SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

LADY WILSON WAS ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEVENTH ASIA-OCEANIA CONGRESS OF OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGICAL SOCIETIES AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE.

SHE SAID SHE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT DOCTORS IN HONG KONG HAD EARNED THEIR PLACE IN THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

LADY WILSON TOLD THE DELEGATES TO THE CONGRESS THAT HONG KONG HAD JUST LAUNCHED MAJOR REFORMS IN ITS MEDICAL AND HEALTH SYSTEMS.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE INDEPENDENT HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAD TAKEN OVER MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF 36 PUBLIC HOSPITALS FROM YESTERDAY.

"ITS MISSION IS TO ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR HOSPITALS, TO INCREASE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT AND, ABOVE ALL, TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PATIENT SERVICE.

"EARLIER THIS YEAR, WE COMPLETED A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF OUR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. WE ARE NOW POISED TO INJECT NEW IMPETUS INTO OUR PREVENTIVE AND PROMOTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMMES," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON SAID THE CONFERENCE WOULD ENABLE THE PARTICIPANTS TO SHARE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES IN THE PREVENTION AND CURE OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT DISEASES.

"SUCH EXCHANGE WILL, IN TURN, FOSTER CLOSE COLLABORATION AMONG CLINICIANS INTERNATIONALLY.

"THIS, WILL HELP PROVIDE EVEN BETTER TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS THE WORLD OVER," SHE ADDED.

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NOVEMBER RECORDS LOW VIETNAMESE ARRIVALS

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IN THE PAST MONTH HONG KONG RECORDED THE LOWEST FIGURE OF VIETNAMESE ARRIVALS FOR OVER SIX YEARS AND THE HIGHEST RATE OF REPATRIATION EVER, REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR CLINTON LEEKS, SAID TODAY.

HE NOTED THAT IN NOVEMBER ONLY SEVEN VIETNAMESE ARRIVED, THE LOWEST MONTHLY ARRIVAL FIGURE SINCE MARCH 1985. THIS COMPARES WITH ALMOST 300 ARRIVALS IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR AND OVER 300 IN NOVEMBER 1989.

SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT WITH VIETNAM ON OCTOBER 29 ON THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME, THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY 20 ARRIVALS SO FAR.

"THIS CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THE MESSAGE IN THE OCTOBER AGREEMENT IS NOW GETTING THROUGH LOUD AND CLEAR: THERE IS NO POINT LEAVING VIETNAM TO HEAD FOR HONG KONG," HE SAID.

IN THE SAME MONTH, 1,414 VIETNAMESE RETURNED HOME UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION SCHEME RUN BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME. THIS IS BY FAR THE HIGHEST NUMBER WHO HAVE EVER RETURNED TO VIETNAM IN A SINGLE MONTH.

"THE UNHCR NOW HAS MORE THAN 2,600 VIETNAMESE WAITING TO GO HOME. THE NUMBER IS INCREASING STEADILY WEEK BY WEEK AND THE UNHCR IS WORKING HARD ARRANGING AIRCRAFT TO GET THEM HOME BEFORE THE VIETNAMESE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY IN EARLY FEBRUARY," MR LEEKS SAID.

WITH THE ORDERLY AND VOLUNTARY RETURN SCHEMES COMPLEMENTING EACH OTHER IN GETTING MORE PEOPLE HOME, AND WITH THE CONTINUED RESETTLEMENT OF GENUINE REFUGEES OVERSEAS, THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION IS NOW OPERATING AS ORIGINALLY INTENDED WHEN IT WAS AGREED TWO AND A HALF YEARS AGO, HE ADDED.

THE STEADY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY RETURNEES, THE DROP IN NEW ARRIVALS AND THE CONTINUING RESETTLEMENT OF GENUINE REFUGEES OVERSEAS HAVE RESULTED IN A NET REDUCTION OF ABOUT 2,600 IN THE OVERALL VIETNAMESE POPULATION IN HONG KONG OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS.

"WE HOPE THIS SIGNALS THE START OF A CONTINUOUS AND STEADY DECREASE IN THE VIETNAMESE CAMP POPULATION IN HONG KONG, AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MORE PEOPLE RETURNING HOME TO RESUME A NORMAL LIFE IN VIETNAM IN THE MONTHS AHEAD," MR LEEKS SAID.

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FIRST COMPREHENSIVE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY BEGINS TODAY

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (MONDAY) SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH A JOINT VENTURE CONSULTANT TO CARRY OUT THE FIRST PHASE OF THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY (RDS).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY TO BE CARRIED OUT IN HONG KONG WITH THE AIM OF RECOMMENDING A RAILWAY STRATEGY COMPATIBLE WITH THE OVERALL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE TERRITORY UP TO 2011.

"FINDINGS OF THE STUDY WILL ENABLE GOVERNMENT TO CO-ORDINATE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY'S RAILWAY NETWORK WITH FUTURE LAND USE DEVELOPMENT AND ACHIEVE THEIR PROPER INTERFACING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE STUDY WILL REVIEW THE TIMING AND PRIORITY OF THE RAILWAY PROJECTS WHICH WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY IN 1989 ALONG WITH OTHER RAILWAY PROPOSALS SUGGESTED BY VARIOUS TRANSPORT STUDIES OR PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS.

"THE FINDINGS OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE RDS WILL ESTABLISH A RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR PASSENGER AND FREIGHT TRANSPORT IN THE FORM OF AN OPTIMAL RAILWAY NETWORK AT VARIOUS TIME HORIZONS.

"A PRIORITY LIST OF THE SELECTED RAILWAY ROUTES WILL BE DRAWN UP IN THE ORDER OF THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, CONSISTENT WITH TRANSPORT AND LAND USE STRATEGIES AND AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES.

"IT WILL ALSO ESTABLISH THE PREFERRED ALIGNMENTS OF THE SELECTED RAILWAY ROUTES FOR DEFINING THE EXTENT OF ROUTE PROTECTION," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A SEPARATE SECOND PHASE OF THE STUDY WOULD ESTABLISH A RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME AND PACKAGE FOR THE RAILWAY PROJECTS SELECTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

"BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE STUDY, THE GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE ON THE SCOPE, SCALE AND ORGANISATION OF THE SECOND PHASE," HE SAID.

THE STUDY, COSTING ABOUT \$11 MILLION, WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE RAILWAY DIVISION OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT. IT WILL TAKE 13 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

SOME OF THE MAJOR PROPOSALS TO BE INVESTIGATED UNDER THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY INCLUDE THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES URBAN LINK, THE MTR TSEUNG KWAN O EXTENSION, THE MRT EAST KOWLOON LINE, POSSIBLE EXTENSION TO TAI WAI AND MA ON SHAN, THE KOWLOON SKY RAIL, ISLAND SOUTH RAPID TRANSIT AND A POSSIBLE DEDICATED FREIGHT LINE TO THE BORDER.

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CLOSE CO-OPERATION NEEDED FOR PEARL RIVER DELTA  
INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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HONG KONG WILL NEED TO DISCUSS ITS STRATEGY ON INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS TO ENSURE THAT IT REALLY DOES FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING ORGANISED BY THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR BARNES SAID SUBSTANTIAL FACILITIES WERE BEING DEVELOPED IN THE PEARL RIVER DELTA REGION, AND THE FUNCTIONS OF WHICH WOULD TO A CERTAIN EXTENT OVERLAP HONG KONG'S OWN.

MR BARNES SAID THE RELATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG AND THE PEARL RIVER CITIES WERE VERY GOOD, BUT WITH THE HUGE EXPENSE OF INFRASTRUCTURE MUCH MORE DISCUSSION BETWEEN ALL THE PARTIES IN THIS REGION WERE GOING TO BE NEEDED.

"WE ARE ALL IN FACT SERVING AN INCREASINGLY COMMON ECONOMIC AREA, AND THERE IS UNDOUBTEDLY A MORE RATIONAL WAY OF GOING ABOUT THINGS THAN A DETERMINATION THAT EACH SHOULD DO EVERYTHING," HE SAID.

IN RECOGNISING THAT THE PORT AND THE AIRPORT SHOULD BE AT THE HEART OF ITS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONFIRMING THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC FUTURE LAY NOT ONLY IN SERVICE INDUSTRIES IN GENERAL BUT IN ITS INTERMEDIATE FUNCTION BETWEEN THE WORLD AND CHINA, MR BARNES SAID.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE LACK OF MUTUAL CONSULTATION ABOUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DIFFERENT AIRPORTS ROUND THE DELTA WAS TYPICAL AND PROBABLY INEVITABLE OF THIS PERIOD OF THE DELTA'S DEVELOPMENT HISTORY, AND WAS MIRRORED IN A SMALLER WAY BY MUTUALLY COMPETITIVE POSTURES THROUGHOUT THE DELTA CITIES.

MR BARNES SAID IT WAS THE PORT WHICH LINKED HONG KONG MUCH MORE CLOSELY WITH THE PEARL RIVER THAN THE AIRPORT.

"HOWEVER, AS MOST OF THE PEARL RIVER CITIES AND COUNTIES HAVE HAD TO RELY ON MARINE TRANSPORT FOR SHIPPING TO HONG KONG, WE COULD GET INTO A PROBLEM OF SERIOUS CONGESTION IN MA WAN CHANNEL OR KAP SHUI MUN WHEN THE VOLUME HAS BUILT UP TO THE LEVELS WHICH WILL SUPPORT TERMINALS ON THE NEW LANTAU PORT PENINSULA DEVELOPMENT.

"SO SOME FURTHER RATIONALISATION OF ITS USE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL PARTIES IS GOING TO BE NECESSARY," HE SAID.

FACED WITH THE PROBLEM OF CONGESTION AROUND MA WAN AND INCREASING DEMAND FROM THE PEARL RIVER, THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PROPOSED A RIVER TRADE CENTRE AT TUEN MUN, MR BARNES SAID.

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"TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, THIS WAS A REACTION TO ALREADY EXPRESSED DEMAND, AS THERE HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT REQUEST FROM COMPANIES CONNECTED WITH TRADE WITH THE PEARL RIVER PORTS FOR AN OFF-LOADING AND CONSOLIDATION PORT IN THE WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES.

"THE PRECISE NATURE OF THE FACILITIES REQUIRED IS NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR, BUT TO NARROW THE OPTIONS THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE CIRCULATING A PROSPECTUS FOR SALE OF SEABED FOR A RIVER TRADE TERMINAL IN TUEN MUN AREA EARLY NEXT YEAR," HE SAID.

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NO QUESTION OF SPENDING CUTS ON SEWAGE PROJECTS

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY TASKS AND WILL REMAIN A MAJOR AREA OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING WITH SOME \$4 BILLION BEING SPENT ON SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL PROJECTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR SIU CHUEN, TODAY (MONDAY) DURING A PRESS VISIT TO STONECUTTERS ISLAND AND THE WEST KOWLOON WATERFRONT WHERE WORKS ON THE \$1.35 BILLION NORTH WEST KOWLOON SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SCHEME ARE BEING CARRIED OUT IN FULL SWING.

MR SIU TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE THAT DESPITE THE RELATIVELY SLOWER ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE TERRITORY AND THE LIMITED GROWTH OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE GOVERNMENT CUTTING DOWN ON THE EXPENDITURE IN INVESTMENTS IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

TO REFLECT THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION IN THIS PURSUIT, MR SIU SAID THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OF HIS DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN INCREASED FROM \$719 MILLION IN 1990/91 TO AN ESTIMATED \$1,500 MILLION FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

"THIS IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN THE YEARS TO COME WHEN MORE 'SEWERAGE MASTERPLAN SCHEMES' ARE IMPLEMENTED, WITH THE PROJECTION FOR THE ANNUAL CAPITAL WORKS EXPENDITURE TO REACH \$2.9 BILLION IN 1993/94, ALMOST FOUR TIMES OF THAT FOR 1990/91.

"SOME 90 PER CENT OF THIS EXPENDITURE WILL BE ON SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL, AND THE REMAINDER ON STORMWATER DRAINS AND FLOOD CONTROL MEASURES," HE SAID.

CITING THE NORTH WEST KOWLOON SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SCHEME AS EXAMPLE, MR SIU SAID THE SCHEME TOGETHER WITH OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY HIS DEPARTMENT HAD RECENTLY BEEN REAFFIRMED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY THAT IT SHOULD REMAIN INTACT AND SHOULD GO AHEAD AS SCHEDULED.

THE OTHER SEWAGE-RELATED PROJECTS RECEIVING SUCH POLICY BLESSING INCLUDED THE \$926 MILLION TOLO HARBOUR EFFLUENT EXPORT SCHEME.

THE NORTH WEST KOWLOON SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SCHEME, WHICH IS DUE TO BE COMMISSIONED IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR, IS THE LARGEST PROJECT BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE SCHEME IS DESIGNED TO TREAT THE SEWAGE OF ABOUT ONE MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN TAI KOK TSUI, SHAM SHUI PO AND LAI CHI KOK SO AS TO IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY OF THE COASTAL WATERS.

WORKS ON THE PROJECT INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SERIES OF INTERCEPTOR SEWERS, A PUMPING STATION AND SCREENING PLANTS ALONG THE WEST KOWLOON FORESHORE AS WELL AS SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

A FEATURE OF THE SCHEME IS THE INSTALLATION OF TWO LARGE SUBMARINE PIPELINES - THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND EVER INSTALLED IN HONG KONG - FROM THE MAINLAND TO STONECUTTERS ISLAND USING THE "BOTTOM TOW" TECHNIQUE BY WHICH THEY WILL BE ASSEMBLED ON THE ISLAND AND PULLED BY HEAVY MACHINERY, ACROSS THE SEABED OF ABOUT ONE KILOMETRE, TO CHEUNG SHA WAN.

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USE OF RECYCLED PAPER ENCOURAGED

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THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT ARE TAKING THE LEAD IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN USING RECYCLED LETTERHEAD STATIONERY TO REINFORCE THE MESSAGE OF RECOVERING WASTEPAPER FOR RECYCLING.

THE STATIONERY, WHICH COMPRISES LETTERHEAD PAPER AND COMPLIMENTARY SLIPS, WILL BE USED ON TRIAL FOR ONE YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BRANCH TODAY (MONDAY) SAID IT WAS HOPED THAT THE EXERCISE WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO RE-USE AND RECYCLE PAPER.

"THE LESS REFUSE DUMPED AT OUR VALUABLE LANDFILLS WILL RESULT IN PROLONGING THEIR LIFE.

"IN ADDITION, THE GREATER USE OF RECYCLED PAPER MEANS A LOWER CONSUMPTION OF VIRGIN PAPER. THIS CAN SAVE TREES WHICH WILL OTHERWISE HAVE TO BE FELLED TO PRODUCE PAPER TO SATISFY THE SAME DEMAND," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT IT WAS HIGH TIME FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE TO HELP PRESERVE LIMITED RESOURCES.

EARLIER, COMPREHENSIVE GUIDES ON HOW TO START A WASTEPAPER RECYCLING SCHEME IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND OFFICES WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC.

SUCH SCHEMES HAVE ALREADY BEEN LAUNCHED IN HOUSING ESTATES AND VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS SCHOOLS, OFFICES AND INTEREST GROUPS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

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LEGCO TO DISCUSS MOTION ON COURT OF FINAL APPEAL

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS WILL DISCUSS A MOTION ON THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL TO BE MOVED BY THE HON SIMON IP AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 4).

THE MOTION READS: "THAT WHEN THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL IN HONG KONG IS SET UP, IT SHOULD HAVE MORE FLEXIBILITY TO INVITE OVERSEAS JUDGES TO SIT ON IT THAN HAS BEEN AGREED BY THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS, AND SUCH FLEXIBILITY SHOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW."

MEMBERS WILL ALSO ASK A TOTAL OF 14 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER SIX BILLS.

THE BILLS ARE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1991, PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) (HOSPITAL AUTHORITY) BILL, STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1991 AND CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

THEY WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS AND DEBATES ON THEM WILL BE ADJOURNED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL'S MEETING FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES. THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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MERCHANTS GIVEN SUSPENDED SENTENCE AND FINED FOR TAX EVASION

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TWO MERCHANTS WERE EACH SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT, SUSPENDED FOR TWO YEARS AND WERE EACH FINED A PENAL TAX OF \$808,968 IN THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT COURT TODAY (MONDAY) AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO CHARGES OF ASSISTING A COMPANY TO EVADE TAX.

THE FIRST DEFENDANT, MR LAW KWOK-CHOI, AGED 56, AND THE SECOND DEFENDANT, MR YIU KA-TAK, AGED 48, WERE SHAREHOLDERS AND DIRECTORS OF ARTLIGHT ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED WHICH WAS A MANUFACTURER OF ELECTRONIC TOYS.

THE FIRST DEFENDANT WAS CHARGED ON FOUR COUNTS OF OFFENCES RELATING TO SIGNING FALSE TAX RETURNS FOR ARTLIGHT ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED (THE COMPANY), CONTRARY TO SECTION 82(1)(D) OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

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THE FIRST AND SECOND DEFENDANTS WERE JOINTLY CHARGED WITH FOUR COUNTS OF OFFENCES RELATING TO FILLING IN FALSE INFORMATION IN THE TAX RETURNS FOR THE COMPANY, CONTRARY TO SECTION 82(1)(G) OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

THE COURT WAS TOLD THAT THE TWO DEFENDANTS HAD OVERSTATED THE SUB-CONTRACTING CHARGES AND PURCHASES AMOUNTING TO \$2,610,262 IN THE COMPANY'S TAX RETURNS FOR THE YEARS 1985/86 TO 1988/89. TO CREATE THE FALSE TRANSACTIONS, THE TWO DEFENDANTS HAD SOLICITED BLANK DELIVERY NOTES, INVOICES AND RECEIPTS FROM A NUMBER OF COMPANIES.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE DEFENDANTS HAD UNDERSTATED THE COMPANY'S FULL PROFITS BY 48 PER CENT AND EVADED TAX AMOUNTING TO \$462,268.

THE TWO DEFENDANTS WERE ARRESTED ON NOVEMBER 4 THIS YEAR. THE CASE WAS FIRST HEARD IN THE SOUTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY ON NOVEMBER 5 AND WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT COURT.

THE PENAL TAX OF \$808,968 IMPOSED ON EACH DEFENDANT REPRESENTED 175 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL TAX EVADED. THE IMPRISONMENT SENTENCES WERE SUSPENDED FOR TWO YEARS ON THE CONDITION THAT PENAL TAX IS PAID ON OR BEFORE JUNE 2 NEXT YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT TAX EVASION IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE. THE MAXIMUM CUSTODIAL SENTENCE IS THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$20,000 ON EACH CHARGE, PLUS A FURTHER FINE OF THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT OF TAX UNDERCHARGED.

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LOCKHART ROAD FESTIVAL FUN FOR ALL  
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LOCKHART ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 8) FOR HOLDING A FUN-FOR-ALL CARNIVAL, THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MR MANN AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WAN CHAI WEST AREA COMMITTEE, MR DOMINIC CHAN, ANNOUNCED THE PROGRAMME OF THE FIRST LOCKHART ROAD FESTIVAL AND THE BACKGROUND OF THE EVENT.

THE FESTIVAL, TO BE HELD IN A SECTION OF LOCKHART ROAD BETWEEN LUARD ROAD AND FLEMING ROAD FROM NOON TO 6 PM, WILL BE A MAJOR RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY EVENT FOR LOCALS AND VISITORS.

MR MANN SAID IT AIMED TO ENHANCE THE REPUTATION OF THE AREA WHICH HAD CHANGED DRAMATICALLY OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AND TO CELEBRATE THE "GREENING" OF WAN CHAI WHERE 500 TREES (MANY ON LOCKHART ROAD) HAD BEEN PLANTED THIS YEAR.

"THE FESTIVAL WILL PROVIDE LIVE MUSIC, FOOD AND DRINKS, STREET ENTERTAINMENT AND AN ASSORTMENT OF OTHER ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

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A STAGE WILL BE SET UP FOR PERFORMANCES SUCH AS BRAZILIAN DANCE, ROCK'N'ROLL AND JAZZ MUSIC, AS WELL AS A SEGMENT BY THE NEPTUNE FILIPINO BAND.

ON-STREET PERFORMANCES ARRANGED BY THE FRINGE CLUB WILL INCLUDE JUGGLING, MIME, MASK THEATRE, AND CLOWN MAGIC AND ACROBATICS. THERE WILL ALSO BE LION DANCES, MARCHING BANDS, CHINESE ACROBATICS, STREET THEATRE, AND COUNTRY AND WESTERN MUSIC.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS WILL INCLUDE 10 HANDICRAFT STALLS COVERING ROCK GRAPHICS AND DOLL-MAKING IN WHICH VISITORS CAN TRY THEIR HAND.

EXPERTS IN SUCH ARTS AS FACE-PAINTING, SKETCHING, CARICATURE, GLASS-PAINTING, BALLOON-TWISTING AND PAPER-CUTTING WILL ALSO SHOW OFF THEIR SKILLS WHILE FORTUNE-TELLERS WILL OFFER FREE ADVICE TO THE VISITORS.

OVER 15 FOOD AND DRINK STALLS PROVIDED BY RETAILERS ALONG LOCKHART ROAD WILL BE STACKED WITH A VARIETY OF SNACKS AND CUISINES FOR SAMPLING.

"THE FESTIVAL WILL PROVIDE FUN FOR THE FAMILY AND IS THE PLACE TO BE ON SUNDAY," MR MANN SAID.

OVER 10,000 RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE EVENT.

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DTC REGISTRATION OF ARAB ASIAN INT'L LTD REVOKED  
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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THE REGISTRATION OF ARAB ASIAN INTERNATIONAL LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON DECEMBER 2 AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE  
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 40.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 237.401 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 251.607 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 42.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
 MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
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	DATE -----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	30.11.91	950
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	2.12.91	-530*
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+ 80
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
* O/N ASSISTANCE TO BE REVERSED -450 MN		
OTHER FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED - 80 MN		
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.9 *-0.1* 2.12.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.11 PCT	24 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.38	5.57
1 MONTH	4.29 PCT					
3 MONTHS	4.02 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.19 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.85 PCT					
TURNOVER - BILLS 5,845 MN, BONDS 45 MN						
CLOSED 2 DECEMBER 1991						