



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVT MONITORS EFFECT OF ULP WITH 98 OCTANE LEVEL

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UNLEADED PETROL (ULP) WITH OCTANE LEVEL OF 98 WAS NOT READILY AVAILABLE FOR SUPPLY TO HONG KONG WHEN PREPARATIONS WERE MADE FOR THE FIRST INTRODUCTION OF ULP AND THEREFORE WAS NOT A PRACTICAL OPTION AT THAT MOMENT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR BOWEN LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MOSES CHENG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT SOME 77 PER CENT OF ALL EXISTING PETROL CARS COULD RUN PROPERLY ON ULP WITH OCTANE LEVEL OF 95 AND VIRTUALLY ALL NEW CARS WERE DESIGNED TO BE ABLE TO RUN SMOOTHLY ON IT.

"IT WAS, THEREFORE, FELT MORE APPROPRIATE TO INTRODUCE FROM THE BEGINNING THIS GRADE OF PETROL WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE OPTIMUM LONG-TERM FUEL REQUIREMENTS OF HONG KONG.

"DISCUSSIONS WERE ALSO HELD WITH THE OIL COMPANIES AND THEY AGREED THAT THE GRADE OF ULP WHICH SHOULD BE PROVIDED OUGHT TO BE 95," MR LEUNG SAID.

ON THE PRICE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN LEADED AND UNLEADED PETROL, MR LEUNG SAID THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY FORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OIL COMPANIES AND THE GOVERNMENT.

"HOWEVER, THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED AT A MEETING SHORTLY BEFORE THE LAUNCHING OF ULP WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD APPLY A REVENUE-NEUTRAL DUTY DIFFERENTIAL OF 45 CENTS AS BETWEEN LEADED AND UNLEADED PETROL, TO ENCOURAGE USAGE OF UNLEADED, AND THE OIL COMPANIES WOULD CHARGE 56 CENTS MORE ON LEADED PETROL, BRINGING ABOUT A COMBINED EFFECT OF MAKING LEADED PETROL \$1.01 MORE EXPENSIVE THAN ULP.

"THE OIL COMPANIES ALSO AGREED THAT THEY WOULD DROP THE 56 CENTS ON LEADED PETROL WHEN THE TOTAL INVESTMENT ON INTRODUCING ULP WAS RECOVERED," HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AS ULP WITH OCTANE LEVEL OF 98 WAS NOT CONSIDERED AS AN OPTION WHEN THE UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED, THE PROVISIONS WERE NOT APPLICABLE TO IT.

HOWEVER, THE 45 CENTS DUTY DIFFERENTIAL AS BETWEEN UNLEADED AND LEADED PETROL WAS APPLICABLE TO BOTH GRADES OF THE UNLEADED PRODUCT, MR LEUNG SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED WITH CURRENT USAGE OF ULP, WHICH WAS AT ABOUT 46 PER CENT.

"THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT 98 ULP IS INCREASING ULP USAGE SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION.

"NEVERTHELESS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CLOSELY MONITOR THE EFFECT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF 98 ULP AND TAKE IT INTO CONSIDERATION, AMONG OTHER FACTORS, IN REVIEWING THE PRICE DIFFERENTIAL IN DUE COURSE," HE SAID.

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GOVT SATISFIES WITH PROCEDURES IN CHECKING DOUBLE BACKERS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED THAT THE PRESENT PROCEDURES ARE EFFECTIVE IN IDENTIFYING AND DETECTING THE SO-CALLED DOUBLE BACKERS FROM THE NEWLY ARRIVED VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS INFORMED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RITA FAN, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, STATED THAT THERE WERE WELL ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR THE DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE SO-CALLED DOUBLE BACKERS.

FIRST, MR ASPREY SAID THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HAD A CENTRAL REGISTER CONTAINING THE DETAILS, INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS, OF ALL VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAD ENTERED HONG KONG ILLEGALLY.

THE CENTRAL REGISTER WAS REGULARLY UPDATED TO REFLECT THE LATEST CHANGES IN THE VIETNAMESE POPULATION, INCLUDING DETAILS OF THOSE WHO HAD BEEN REPATRIATED TO VIETNAM.

SECONDLY, MR ASPREY SAID UPON DISEMBARKATION AT GREEN ISLAND, ALL VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WERE SUBJECT TO A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS BY IMMIGRATION AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OFFICERS WELL EXPERIENCED IN IDENTIFYING DOUBLE BACKERS THROUGH CAREFUL QUESTIONING.

IN THE COURSE OF THESE INTERVIEWS, A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF DOUBLE BACKERS WERE IDENTIFIED THROUGH SELF-ADMISSION, DISCLOSURE BY OTHER VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS OR DETECTION BY THE INTERVIEWERS, HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT WHERE THE INTERVIEWERS HAD DOUBTS OVER THE IDENTITY OF ANY VIETNAMESE MIGRANT, AN EXTENSIVE RECORD CHECK WAS CARRIED OUT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER A PARTICULAR VIETNAMESE MIGRANT HAD PREVIOUSLY RETURNED TO VIETNAM THROUGH THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION SCHEME.

NOTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED THAT THE PRESENT PROCEDURES WERE EFFECTIVE, MR ASPREY SAID IT RECOGNISED THAT A FEW MIGHT HAVE ESCAPED DETECTION THROUGH THE USE OF DIFFERENT OR FICTITIOUS NAMES.

"HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THESE WILL BE SUBSEQUENTLY DETECTED IN THE SCREENING PROCESS," HE SAID.

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CURRENT GAMBLING POLICY EFFECTIVE

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THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT GAMBLING POLICY IS EFFECTIVE, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NG MING-YUM, MR TSAO SAID, HOWEVER, THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMPLACENT.

"NEW FORMS OF GAMBLING ARE DETECTED FROM TIME TO TIME; STEPS ARE TAKEN TO MODIFY THE POLICY OR AMEND THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE AS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE POLICE HAVE THE POWER THEY NEED TO TACKLE ILLEGAL GAMBLING IN ALL ITS FORMS," HE SAID.

THE MOST RECENT AMENDMENT TO THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE TOOK PLACE LAST YEAR WHEN IT WAS AMENDED TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE SENTENCES FOR OFFENCES RELATED TO ILLEGAL GAMBLING AND TO TIGHTEN CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN THE ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THE LAW TO BE ENFORCED MORE EFFECTIVELY.

"WITH THESE AMENDMENTS, THE MAXIMUM FINES FOR OPERATING ILLEGAL GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENT, FOR BOOKMAKING AND FOR OPERATING ILLEGAL LOTTERIES WAS RAISED FROM \$500,000 TO \$5 MILLION," HE SAID.

MR TSAO SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY HAD ALWAYS BEEN TO RESTRICT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GAMBLING BUT TO ALLOW FOR CONTROLLED OUTLETS TO COUNTER ILLEGAL GAMBLING.

"IN PRACTICE, THIS MEANS STRICT LAWS AND FIRM ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL GAMBLING ACTIVITIES, SUPPORTED BY THE PROVISION OF CONTROLLED ALTERNATIVES WHERE A COGENT NEED FOR SUCH ALTERNATIVES HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

"OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRES (OCBC) ARE ONE OF THE MAIN WEAPONS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL GAMBLING," HE SAID.

ON THE ESTABLISHMENTS OF OCBC'S, MR TSAO SAID THEY WERE BEING CLOSELY MONITORED.

BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE FIRST OCBC IN APRIL 1974, OFF-COURSE BETTING WAS THE MOST POPULAR FORM OF ILLEGAL GAMBLING, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE ESTIMATED COMBINED TURNOVER OF BETTING ON HORSE AND GREYHOUND RACING EXCEEDED \$7,000 MILLION A YEAR.

"IT WAS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT IN OCTOBER 1973, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL APPROVED THE LEGALISATION OF OFF-COURSE BETTING.

"SINCE 1974, THE INCIDENCE OF ILLEGAL OFF-COURSE BETTING HAS DECLINED, AND RELATED SOCIAL PROBLEMS CAUSED BY LOANSHARKING AND TRIAD INTIMIDATION HAVE BEEN ALLEVIATED," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, WITH THE SHIFT OF POPULATION FROM URBAN AREAS TO THE NEW TOWNS, THE POLICE HAD DETECTED AN UPSURGE IN ILLEGAL GAMBLING IN THESE AREAS FROM TIME TO TIME, HE SAID.

"WHERE OCBC'S HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, THE INCIDENCE OF ILLEGAL GAMBLING HAS ONCE AGAIN DECLINED," HE STRESSED.

TURNING TO THE CRITERIA BEING USED WHEN APPROVING APPLICATIONS FOR THE SETTING UP OF A NEW OCBC, MR TSAO NOTED THAT EACH WOULD BE CONSIDERED ON ITS INDIVIDUAL MERITS, WITH REFERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING FACTORS AS WELL:

- * AN ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC VIEWS MADE BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER AS A RESULT OF HIS CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE, AREA COMMITTEE, DISTRICT BOARD AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, AS APPROPRIATE;
- * AN ASSESSMENT BY THE POLICE ON POTENTIAL OR EXISTING ILLEGAL GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA;
- * AN ASSESSMENT BY THE POLICE OF THE SUITABILITY OF THE PREMISES ON OPERATIONAL GROUNDS, INCLUDING SUCH MATTERS AS SECURITY, ACCESSIBILITY, OBSTRUCTION AND NUISANCE;
- * WHERE PRACTICABLE, OCBC SHOULD GENERALLY BE LOCATED IN PURPOSE BUILT BUILDINGS OR COMMERCIAL PREMISES INCLUDING THE COMMERCIAL AREAS OF COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, MTR STATION COMPLEXES OR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE COMMERCIAL COMPLEXES; AND
- * AS A GENERAL GUIDELINE, WHERE POSSIBLE, A REASONABLE PHYSICAL SEPARATION SHOULD BE MAINTAINED BETWEEN AN OCBC AND SOCIAL SERVICES, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES CATERING PRIMARILY TO CHILDREN AND YOUTHS, IN ADDITION, OCBC SHOULD NOT BE SITUATED ON POPULAR ROUTES BETWEEN SUCH SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

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LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE MAY BE IMPLEMENTED IN PHASES

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THE LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1991 HAS NOT BEEN BROUGHT INTO EFFECT BECAUSE FUNDS ORIGINALLY EARMARKED FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION HAVE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE EXPANSION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JIMMY MCGREGOR, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR DAVID SAID THE LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT AS SOON AS ADDITIONAL FUNDS WERE OBTAINED FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

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"CONSIDERATION IS ALSO BEING GIVEN TO PHASING THE IMPLEMENTATION SO THAT SOME OF THE IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED IN THE ORDINANCE CAN BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT EARLIER," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS HAD NECESSITATED A REVIEW OF THE PRIORITIES OF PROVIDING LEGAL AID IN THE VARIOUS COURTS OF HONG KONG.

"HAVING REGARD TO THE NEED TO RESTRAIN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND THE GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATION UNDER ARTICLE 11 (2) (D) OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO PEOPLE OF INSUFFICIENT MEANS IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO EXPANDING THE SUBVENTED DUTY LAWYER SCHEME JOINTLY ADMINISTERED BY THE LAW SOCIETY AND THE BAR ASSOCIATION IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

"THE NECESSARY FUNDS (\$30 MILLION) WOULD BE PROVIDED BY DEFERRING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE," SIR DAVID EXPLAINED.

HE SAID THE EXPANDED DUTY LAWYER SCHEME APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON JULY 12 THIS YEAR CAME INTO FULL OPERATION ON OCTOBER 14 THIS YEAR.

"PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE EXPANSION SO FAR HAS BEEN HIGHLY POSITIVE.

"IT HAS ENABLED THE GOVERNMENT TO COMPLY FULLY WITH ITS STATUTORY OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS UNDER THE BILL OF RIGHTS," SIR DAVID SAID.

IT WAS EXPECTED TO BENEFIT AN ADDITIONAL 17,000 PEOPLE A YEAR COMPARED WITH AN ESTIMATED 1,600 PEOPLE THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RELAXATION OF THE FINANCIAL CRITERIA FOR LEGAL AID UNDER THE LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE.

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SPEED LIMITS FOR GOODS VEHICLES UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW

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CURRENT SPEED LIMITS FOR MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES ARE ADEQUATE, BUT THEY WILL BE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PEGGY LAM, MR LEUNG SAID UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, THERE WAS A SPEED LIMIT OF 50 KILOMETRES PER HOUR ON ALL ROADS FOR ALL CLASSES OF VEHICLES, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.

ON EXPRESSWAYS WHERE HIGHER SPEEDS WERE ALLOWED, FOR EXAMPLE UP TO 100 KILOMETRES PER HOUR ON CERTAIN SECTIONS OF TOLO HIGHWAY, THE UPPER SPEED LIMIT FOR MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES WAS RESTRICTED TO 70 KILOMETRES PER HOUR.

/MR LEUNG

MR LEUNG SAID THERE WERE AT PRESENT 377,024 LICENSED VEHICLES IN HONG KONG. AMONG THEM, 824 WERE GOODS VEHICLES WITH PERMITTED GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT EXCEEDING 24 TONNES AND BEING CLASSIFIED AS HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES; AND 1,212 WERE CONCRETE MIXERS BEING NORMALLY CLASSIFIED AS MEDIUM GOODS VEHICLES.

ON THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES IN THE LAST NINE MONTHS, MR LEUNG SAID THERE WERE 40 CASES RESULTING IN TWO DEATHS AND 49 INJURIES.

IN 1990, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS WAS 79 INVOLVING FIVE DEATHS AND 106 INJURIES, COMPARED WITH 44 ACCIDENTS, TWO DEATHS AND 74 INJURIES IN 1989.

ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CONCRETE MIXERS IN THE LAST NINE MONTHS, THERE WERE 28 CASES RESULTING IN THREE DEATHS AND 39 INJURIES.

IN 1990, THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 33 ACCIDENTS INVOLVING TWO DEATHS AND 43 INJURIES, AND IN 1989, THERE WERE 41 ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN TWO DEATHS AND 55 INJURIES.

ON THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING VEHICLES OTHER THAN HEAVY VEHICLES AND CONCRETE MIXERS, MR LEUNG SAID BETWEEN JANUARY AND SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 11,272 ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN 226 DEATHS AND 14,904 INJURIES.

IN 1990, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS WAS 15,255 INVOLVING 321 DEATHS AND 20,028 INJURIES. IN 1989, THERE WERE 16,214 ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN 346 DEATHS AND 21,251 INJURIES.

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OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S SERVICES SHOULD BE FUNDED BY USERS
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THE BASIS ON WHICH THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER IMPOSES CHARGES ON THE DEPOSITS OF BANKRUPTS AND INSOLVENT COMPANIES UNDER HIS CARE IS THAT THE COST OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER SHOULD, AS FAR AS IS REASONABLE, BE FUNDED BY THOSE WHO USE SUCH SERVICES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR NENDICK NOTED THAT UNDER SECTION 128A OF THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE, THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER WAS REQUIRED TO PLACE ON BANK DEPOSIT MONIES WHICH WERE IN EXCESS OF THE AMOUNT WHICH, IN HIS OPINION, WAS REQUIRED FOR THE TIME BEING TO ANSWER DEMANDS OF DEBTORS' ESTATES.

INTEREST ACCRUING ON THOSE DEPOSITS WAS THEN REQUIRED TO BE PAID INTO THE GENERAL REVENUE AT THE END OF EACH FINANCIAL YEAR.

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AS TO INSOLVENT COMPANIES, THE SECRETARY SAID UNDER SECTION 285 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, LIQUIDATORS OF INSOLVENT COMPANIES WERE REQUIRED TO PAY INTO THE COMPANIES LIQUIDATION ACCOUNT MAINTAINED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER MONIES WHICH HAD REMAINED UNCLAIMED OR UNDISTRIBUTED FOR SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THEIR RECEIPT.

UNDER SECTION 294 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER WAS REQUIRED, IN RESPECT OF INSOLVENT COMPANIES, TO PLACE ON BANK DEPOSIT ALL MONIES IN HIS HANDS AS LIQUIDATOR WHICH WERE IN EXCESS OF THE AMOUNT WHICH, IN HIS OPINION, WAS REQUIRED FOR THE TIME BEING TO ANSWER DEMANDS IN RESPECT OF THE COMPANY'S ESTATE, HE ADDED.

INTEREST ACCRUING ON THOSE DEPOSITS WAS THEN REQUIRED TO BE PAID INTO THE GENERAL REVENUE AT THE END OF EACH FINANCIAL YEAR.

MR NENDICK EXPLAINED THAT DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS APPLIED WHEN THE CASH BALANCE STANDING TO THE CREDIT OF THE ACCOUNT OF ANY COMPANY EXCEEDED BY \$100,000 OR MORE THE AMOUNT WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION, OR, WHERE THERE WAS NO COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION, IN THE OPINION OF THE LIQUIDATOR, WAS REQUIRED FOR THE TIME BEING TO ANSWER DEMANDS IN RESPECT OF THE COMPANY'S ESTATE.

IN SUCH CASES, THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER WAS REQUIRED ON THE REQUEST OF THE COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION, OR WHERE THERE WAS NO COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION ON THE REQUEST OF THE LIQUIDATOR, TO INVEST THE AMOUNT OF SUCH EXCESS ON BANK DEPOSIT.

OUT OF THE INTEREST PAID ON SUCH DEPOSITS, AN AMOUNT EQUALLED TO 1.5 PER CENT PER ANNUM (OR SUCH OTHER RATE AS MIGHT BE FIXED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY) OF THE MONEY INVESTED WAS REQUIRED TO BE PAID TO THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER.

AGAIN, MR NENDICK NOTED, SUCH INTEREST WAS THEN PAID INTO THE GENERAL REVENUE AT THE END OF EACH FINANCIAL YEAR WHILE THE BALANCE OF THE INTEREST WAS PAID TO THE CREDIT OF THE COMPANY.

ON WHAT EXTENT THESE CHARGES HAD RESULTED IN RECOVERING THE COST OF PROVIDING THE PARTICULAR SERVICES, MR NENDICK STATED THAT THE COST OF OPERATING THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, 1990-91, WAS \$103 MILLION AND THE INTEREST PAID TO THE GENERAL REVENUE ON BANK DEPOSITS TOTALLED \$25.5 MILLION.

"THUS THIS INTEREST CONTRIBUTED ABOUT 25 PER CENT TO THE OVERALL OPERATING COSTS OF THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE DURING THE YEAR," HE SAID.

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ROAD SAFETY GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY IN DESIGNING ROAD JUNCTIONS

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THE SAFETY OF VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IS GIVEN THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN DESIGNING ROAD JUNCTIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN, MR LEUNG SAID IN EACH CASE, THE DESIGN TOOK ACCOUNT OF THE TYPE OF ROAD, THE PROJECTED TRAFFIC VOLUME, PEDESTRIAN NEEDS AND SIGHT DISTANCE.

HE STRESSED THAT THE STANDARDS ADOPTED ACCORD WITH THE BEST INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE SAFETY OF ROAD JUNCTIONS WAS KEPT UNDER REGULAR REVIEW, HAVING REGARD TO CHANGING TRAFFIC PATTERNS AND ANALYSIS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THESE REVIEWS AND FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC INCLUDING DISTRICT BOARDS, IMPROVEMENTS WERE MADE AS NECESSARY, HE ADDED.

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ACTION AGAINST GOODS VEHICLE OVERLOADING TO BE STEPPED UP

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN ACTION AGAINST THE OVERLOADING OF GOODS VEHICLES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG SAID THESE PROPOSALS INCLUDED RAISING THE AMOUNT OF THE FIXED PENALTY, MAKING THE OVERLOADING OF INDIVIDUAL AXLES AN OFFENCE, INCLUDING OVERLOADING AS A SCHEDULED OFFENCE UNDER THE DRIVING OFFENCE POINTS SYSTEM, AND TIGHTENING OWNERS' LIABILITY FOR OVERLOADING OFFENCES.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. ALBERT CHAN, MR LEUNG SAID IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENT 18 WEIGH STATIONS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THREE MORE WOULD BE INSTALLED BY STAGES OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES.

THESE STATIONS WOULD BE LOCATED IN CHAI WAN NEAR THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, TAI LAM CHUNG NEAR TUEN MUN ROAD AND THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION NEAR THE FUTURE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT SAID SUSPECTED OVERLOADED VEHICLES WERE CHECKED AT POLICE WEIGH STATIONS AND WERE REQUIRED TO OFF-LOAD ANY GOODS IN EXCESS.

DEPENDING ON THE EXTENT OF OVERLOADING, THE DRIVERS WERE WARNED, SUBJECTED TO FIXED PENALTY FINE OR PROSECUTED AS APPROPRIATE.

IN ADDITION, ENFORCEMENT ACTION WAS ALSO TAKEN AGAINST THE OWNERS OF THE VEHICLES IF THERE WAS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE.

LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO MR LEUNG, POLICE ENFORCEMENT ACTION WAS TAKEN IN 33,340 CASES.

ON THE 18 EXISTING WEIGH STATIONS, MR LEUNG SAID FIVE WERE PERMANENT AND 13 WERE PORTABLE WEIGH PADS.

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT HAD INSTALLED FIVE DYNAMIC WEIGHBRIDGES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS TO COLLECT STATISTICAL DATA ON THE EXTENT OF OVERLOADING, FOR MONITORING AND PLANNING PURPOSES, MR LEUNG ADDED.

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OPERATING-HOUR ADJUSTMENT OF TUNNEL RESTS WITH DEMAND

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THE EXISTING OPERATING HOURS OF TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNEL MAY BE ADJUSTED SHOULD FUTURE DEMAND SO WARRANTS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU WAH-SUM, MR LEUNG SAID BECAUSE OF LOW PATRONAGE AND THE AVAILABILITY OF AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE, THE TUNNEL WAS OPENED TO TRAFFIC INITIALLY FOR 16 HOURS EACH DAY FROM 6.30 AM TO 10.30 PM.

AS AT SEPTEMBER, AN AVERAGE OF 11,500 VEHICLES USED THE TUNNEL EACH DAY, WHICH WAS WELL BELOW THE DESIGN CAPACITY OF 80,000 VEHICLES.

MR LEUNG SAID THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES LIKELY TO USE THE TUNNEL DURING THE HOURS OF CLOSURE WAS NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY THE DEPLOYMENT OF MORE STAFF THAN THE 66 CURRENTLY WORKING IN TWO SHIFTS.

BESIDES, DURING THE HOURS OF CLOSURE, VEHICLES COULD STILL USE THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE VIA PO LAM ROAD.

HOWEVER, MR LEUNG ADDED THAT THE SITUATION WAS BEING KEPT UNDER REVIEW.

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CAREER PLANNING SYSTEM FOR SENIOR OFFICERS WELL ESTABLISHED

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A WIDE RANGE OF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS TO EQUIP SENIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS FOR HIGHER LEVEL MANAGEMENT POSITIONS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SAMUEL WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR WIGGHAM SAID THERE WAS ALSO AN ESTABLISHED SYSTEM OF CAREER PLANNING DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY THOSE WITH POTENTIAL TO ASSUME DIRECTORATE RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH POSTINGS, TRAINING AND EXPOSURE WHICH WOULD HELP THEM TO REALISE THAT POTENTIAL.

IT REMAINS THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TO PROVIDE OFFICERS WITH THE TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES REQUIRED TO ASSUME HIGHER RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED PROVISION OF EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, HE STRESSED.

"CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, IN CONSULTATION WITH POLICY BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, FORMULATES AND REASSESSES DIRECTORATE SUCCESSION PLANS FOR EACH DEPARTMENT ON A REGULAR BASIS, USUALLY ANNUALLY," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING CENTRE ORGANISED A VARIETY OF COURSES OF DIFFERENT DURATION FOR THE WHOLE CIVIL SERVICE.

COURSES PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO SENIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS COVERED MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT, PROBLEM SOLVING AND DECISION MAKING; LEADERSHIP SKILL AND TEAM BUILDING; STAFF MANAGEMENT AND STAFF RELATIONS TECHNIQUES; ORGANISATION SKILLS; PRESENTATION SKILLS; MANAGEMENT OF WORK STRESS.

IN ADDITION, THE CENTRE OFFERS COURSES ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING THE USE OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS, AND IN LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS.

REGARDING IN-HOUSE TRAINING, MR WIGGHAM SAID THE TRAINING CENTRE ALSO PROVIDED SUPPORT AND ADVICE TO DEPARTMENTS.

HE SAID \$26.3 MILLION WAS ALLOCATED TO THE CENTRE THIS YEAR FOR THIS PURPOSE, AN INCREASE OVER THE \$18.36 MILLION PROVIDED IN 1988/89.

THE CENTRE ALSO HAS A RESOURCE AND INFORMATION CENTRE PROVIDING READING MATERIAL FOR OFFICERS WHO WISH TO ENHANCE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF MANAGEMENT AND OTHER SUBJECTS.

MEANWHILE, MR WIGGHAM NOTED THAT THE SENIOR STAFF COURSE CENTRE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1984 TO PROVIDE OFFICERS AT THE SENIOR PROFESSIONAL LEVEL WITH MANAGEMENT TRAINING SPECIALLY TAILORED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE CENTRE RUNS A THREE-MONTH FULL-TIME SENIOR MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME TWICE A YEAR.

HE POINTED OUT THAT A TOTAL OF 500 OFFICERS, MOSTLY PROFESSIONAL STAFF, HAD BENEFITED FROM THE PROGRAMME SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

A SUM OF \$5.67 MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO THE CENTRE FOR TRAINING DURING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

NOTING THAT OFFICERS WERE ALSO SPONSORED TO ATTEND COURSES ORGANISED BY LOCAL AND OVERSEAS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, HE SAID LAST FINANCIAL YEAR MORE THAN 9,000 OFFICERS WERE SO BENEFITED, INCLUDING NEARLY 450 WHO BENEFITED FROM TRAINING OVERSEAS.

AS REGARDS CAREER DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, THE SECRETARY SAID THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH CALLED FOR AND EXAMINED DIRECTORATE SUCCESSION PLANS FOR EACH DEPARTMENT.

"PART OF THE PROCESS OF GROOMING OFFICERS FOR HIGHER MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES INVOLVES IDENTIFYING THOSE WITH POTENTIAL AND PROVIDING FOR THEM, WHERE NECESSARY, TO ATTEND APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSES EITHER LOCALLY OR OVERSEAS.

"ON-THE-JOB TRAINING IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN CAREER DEVELOPMENT, AND DEPARTMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE AS MUCH EXPOSURE AS POSSIBLE THROUGH INTER OR INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL POSTINGS," HE ADDED.

TO ENABLE SENIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS TO ACQUIRE WORK EXPERIENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OPERATIONS AT THE CENTRAL LEVEL, HE SAID THE BRANCH HAD AN ESTABLISHED ARRANGEMENT FOR SECONDING SELECTED PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS TO POLICY OR RESOURCE BRANCHES IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

WALLED CITY CLEARANCE TO GO AHEAD AS SCHEDULED

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THE WALLED CITY CLEARANCE WILL GO AHEAD AS SCHEDULED AND ALL PHASE I CLEAREES WHO FAIL TO MOVE OUT BY NOVEMBER 27 WILL BE EVICTED, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE CLEARANCE OPERATION WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN FOUR PHASES. THE DEADLINE FOR THE FIRST PHASE HAS BEEN SET FOR NOVEMBER 27, 1991 AND THE REMAINING THREE PHASES WILL BE CLEARED BY MARCH, APRIL AND JUNE 1992 RESPECTIVELY.

THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY IS BEING CLEARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1987 AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA.

MR TSAO STRESSED THAT FIRM ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE CLEAREES WHO FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINE FOR THE RESPECTIVE PHASES.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALL THE POWER NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE CLEARANCE AND ALL DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED INCLUDING THE POLICE WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE THE TARGETS ARE MET," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE CLEARANCE HAD PROGRESSED OVER FOUR YEARS AND THE MAJORITY OF CLEAREES TO DATE HAD ACCEPTED GOVERNMENT'S COMPENSATION AND REHOUSING OFFERS AND HAD EITHER LEFT OR WOULD LEAVE THE WALLED CITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

"ONLY 457 HOUSEHOLDS OR 4.2 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL OF THE 10,782 HOUSEHOLDS TO BE CLEARED UNDER ALL FOUR PHASES HAVE NOT AS YET ACCEPTED GOVERNMENT'S OFFERS," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR TSAO POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS A SMALL GROUP OF DIFFICULT CLEAREES WHO CONSIDERED THAT THE COMPENSATION WAS INADEQUATE.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S COMPENSATION TERMS ARE VERY REASONABLE," HE STRESSED.

IN THE CASE OF OWNERS OF PROPERTY, THEY ARE OFFERED COMPENSATION SUFFICIENT TO PURCHASE THE CHEAPEST HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME (HOS) FLAT IN URBAN KOWLOON AREA AT THE TIME OF OFFER.

CALCULATION IS BASED ON A MODE FLAT OF 23.44 SQUARE METRES IN SIZE, GIVING A COMPENSATION RATE OF ABOUT \$390,000. THIS RATE IS FOR THE LAST PHASE. RATES FOR EACH PHASE HAVE BEEN REVIEWED HAVING REGARD TO THE SALE PRICES OF THE HOS FLATS AT THE TIME OF THE OFFER.

BUSINESS OPERATORS ARE PAID COMPENSATION TO COVER THE LOSSES AND COSTS INCURRED IN RELOCATING THEIR OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE WALLED CITY OR THEIR TOTAL EXTINGUISHMENT.

THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION WHERE A BUSINESS IS EXTINGUISHED BUT THE CLAIMANT HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF PROFITABILITY IS GENERALLY IN THE REGION OF \$340,000 TO \$450,000.

/HOWEVER, IF

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HOWEVER, IF THE BUSINESS OPERATORS ARE ABLE TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTARY PROOF TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR CLAIMS, HIGHER LEVELS OF COMPENSATION MAY BE OFFERED.

MR TSAO NOTED THAT THERE WAS ONE CASE IN WHICH THE OPERATOR HAD BEEN AWARDED COMPENSATION IN EXCESS OF \$2 MILLION.

FOR DENTISTS AND DOCTORS, THE SPECIAL WORKING GROUP UNDER THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CLEARANCE OF WALLED CITY HAS RULED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL FOR THESE CLINIC OPERATORS TO CONTINUE PRACTICE OUTSIDE THE WALLED CITY.

THEY ARE THEREFORE OFFERED COMPENSATION OF \$342,000 EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE THEY ARE ABLE TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR CLAIMS FOR HIGHER COMPENSATION.

MR TSAO POINTED OUT THAT EVEN AFTER EVICTION, CLEAREES WHO WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE COMPENSATION OFFERS WOULD BE GIVEN A TWO-MONTH PERIOD TO EITHER SUBMIT DOCUMENTS TO SUBSTANTIATE A CLAIM FOR HIGHER COMPENSATION OR APPEAL TO THE ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD.

"THE CLEARANCE IS CARRIED OUT IN THE OVERALL INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"IT WILL PROVIDE A PERMANENT SOLUTION TO THE LONG-STANDING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE WALLED CITY SUCH AS UNSAFE STRUCTURES, POOR STANDARD OF HYGIENE AND FIRE HAZARDS," HE SAID.

THE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED TO COST OVER \$3.1 BILLION. SO FAR, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PAID OUT \$2.27 BILLION.

MR TSAO ALSO TOURED THE WALLED CITY THIS AFTERNOON. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SPECIAL DUTIES), MR PHILIP CHOK; THE POLICE KOWLOON REGIONAL COMMANDER, MR PETER LEE; AND THE GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT (SPECIAL DUTIES), MR JOHN CORRIGALL.

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VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION HITS 1,000 MARK AGAIN

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THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR CLINTON LEEKS, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WELCOMED THE UNHCR'S SUCCESS IN AGAIN ACHIEVING THE TARGET OF RETURNING MORE THAN 1,000 VOLUNTEERS TO VIETNAM IN A MONTH.

"THE INCREASING NUMBER OF RETURNEES SUGGESTS THAT MORE AND MORE VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HAVE NOW COME TO REALISE THAT THEIR FUTURE LIES IN VIETNAM AND THAT IT IS NOT IN THEIR INTEREST FOR THEM TO CHOOSE TO CONTINUE THEIR MEANINGLESS STAY IN DETENTION CENTRES," MR LEEKS SAID.

MR LEEKS ALSO NOTED THAT OF THE RECENT VOLUNTARY RETURNEES, ABOUT 12 PER CENT WERE SCREENED-OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

/THIS REPRESENTED

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THIS REPRESENTED A MARKED INCREASE WHEN COMPARED WITH AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT FIVE PER CENT OF SCREENED-OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AMONG ALL THOSE WHO HAD RETURNED.

"THE GROWING NUMBER OF SCREENED-OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS RETURNING VOLUNTARILY INDICATES THAT THE MESSAGE THAT ALL NON-REFUGEES WILL HAVE TO RETURN IS NOW GETTING THROUGH TO THOSE IN THE CAMPS," HE SAID.

HE HOPED THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY ON THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME FOR ALL VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WOULD FURTHER UNDERLINE THIS MESSAGE, THEREBY ENCOURAGING MORE TO GO HOME VOLUNTARILY.

TODAY'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF 267 RETURNEES BROUGHT TO 1,173 THE NUMBER WHO HAVE RETURNED THIS MONTH.

THIS IS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF RETURNEES IN A MONTH SINCE THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME STARTED MORE THAN TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS AGO.

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN THREE MONTHS THAT THE TARGET OF 1,000 RETURNEES PER MONTH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

PREVIOUSLY, THE MONTHLY TARGET OF 1,000 RETURNEES WAS ACHIEVED IN AUGUST, WHEN 1,009 VIETNAMESE VOLUNTEERED TO GO HOME.

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GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY ON THREE PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND LOCATED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FIRST SITE IS LOCATED AT ON LAI STREET, AREA 11, SHA TIN.

IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,700 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR STORAGE OF GOODS INCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES BUT EXCLUDING CONTAINERS, CONTAINERS ON TRAILERS AND DANGEROUS GOODS AS DEFINED IN THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE SECOND LOT IS LOCATED AT SAI TSO WAN ROAD, AREA 16, TSING YI.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 23,410 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF EMPTY CONTAINERS (EXCLUDING STUFFING AND DESTUFFING ACTIVITIES).

THE TENANCY IS FOR 18 MONTHS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

/THE THIRD

THE THIRD LOT IS ALSO LOCATED AT SAI TSO WAN ROAD, AREA 16, TSING YI.

THE SITE HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 13,300 SQUARE METRES AND IS EARMARKED FOR A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK FOR THE PARKING OF CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS ONLY, ALL OF WHICH MUST BE CURRENTLY LICENSED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT FOR USE ON PUBLIC STREETS AND ROADS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 15.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, SHA TIN AND KWAI TSING; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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SPORTS FESTIVAL FOR TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS

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TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN A SPATE OF RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS EVENTS ORGANISED UNDER THE 13TH TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL, BEGINNING THIS SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 2).

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE MONTH-LONG FESTIVAL AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (WEDNESDAY), FESTIVAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR WONG DAI-HEI, SAID THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL WILL START WITH A JOINT PERFORMANCE BY THE JIANGSU MARTIAL ARTS TEAM AND THE HONG KONG MARTIAL ARTS FEDERATION AT SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND.

OTHER EVENTS ON STREAM WILL INCLUDE ARCHERY, MINI-SOCCER, FIVE-A-SIDE SOCCER, BADMINTON, SQUASH, BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, TENNIS, TABLE TENNIS, AEROBIC DANCES, CROSS-COUNTRY MARATHON, LONG-DISTANCE SWIMMING AND A GO-KART RACE.

THERE WILL ALSO BE SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE HANDICAPPED AND THE ELDERLY AND THE HIGHLIGHT WILL BE THE PERFORMANCES BY THE SICHUAN HARD QIGONG AND SKILL CALLISTHENICS TEAM.

THE FESTIVAL HAS BEEN ORGANISED SINCE 1979 BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE FEDERATION OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATIONS, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE TSUEN WAN POLICE COMMUNITY RELATION OFFICE.

THE GROWING SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY HAD MADE IT POSSIBLE TO ORGANISE THE EVENT ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

/THIS YEAR'S

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THIS YEAR'S EVENTS ARE ESTIMATED TO COST \$1.3 MILLION. \$250,000 WILL COME FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD, \$570,000 FROM THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE REST FROM LOCAL DONATIONS.

AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR RAYMOND YOUNG, AND DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN, RECEIVED CHEQUES FROM FOUR MAJOR DONORS ON BEHALF OF THE FESTIVAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPT HAS MOVED
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THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT HAS MOVED FROM TSIM SHA TSUI TO PREMISES IN HO MAN TIN.

THE NEW ADDRESS IS CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING, 101 PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, HO MAN TIN, KOWLOON.

WITH THE REMOVAL, ITS ENQUIRIES TELEPHONE NUMBER HAS CHANGED TO 762 5111.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	29.10.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	30.10.91	-203
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+203
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.8 *-0.4* 30.10.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	29.10.91	30.10.
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	3.99 PCT	4.06 PCT
1 MONTH	4.21 PCT	4.09 PCT
3 MONTHS	4.59 PCT	4.35 PCT
6 MONTHS	5.08 PCT	4.65 PCT
12 MONTHS	6.07 PCT	5.46 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER	6,170 MN	8,432 MN

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