



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1983

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REGULATIONS FOR NEW ID CARD
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REVISED LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUE OF A NEW AND MORE SECURE IDENTITY CARD WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON MARCH 28.

ALSO FROM THAT DATE, DRIVING LICENCES WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED AS PROOF OF IDENTITY.

THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1983, PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY, IMPOSE A DUTY ON THE HOLDER OF AN IDENTITY CARD TO APPLY FOR A NEW CARD WHEN NOTIFIED TO DO SO. IN THE CASE OF A HOLDER OF A JUVENILE CARD, THAT DUTY WILL FALL ON THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID APPLICANTS FOR FIRST REGISTRATION OR FOR REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGED OR LOST CARDS ON OR AFTER MARCH 28 WOULD BE ISSUED WITH THE NEW CARD.

STARTING ON MAY 2, EXISTING HOLDERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A NEW CARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMME BASED ON THEIR SEX AND YEAR OF BIRTH. THE FIRST OF THE NEW CARDS WILL BE ISSUED TO MALES AGED 18 TO 35 BECAUSE IT IS IN THIS GROUP THAT MOST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE LIKELY TO BE FOUND.

FAILURE TO PRESENT AN OLD IDENTITY CARD WHEN APPLYING FOR A NEW ONE, OR TO SURRENDER IT WHEN COLLECTING THE NEW ONE, COULD RESULT IN A FINE OF \$3 000.

THE REGULATIONS MAKE IT AN OFFENCE TO GIVE FALSE INFORMATION THAT AN IDENTITY CARD HAS BEEN LOST, DESTROYED, DAMAGED OR DEFACED. THE MAXIMUM PENALTY IS A FINE OF \$20 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

THE EXISTING MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR TWO OFFENCES UNDER THE PRINCIPAL REGULATIONS IS RAISED FROM A FINE OF \$3 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR TO A FINE OF \$20 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS. THESE OFFENCES RELATE TO THE FURNISHING OF FALSE PARTICULARS WHEN APPLYING FOR AN IDENTITY CARD AND FOR THE UNLAWFUL APPLICATION FOR, OR POSSESSION OF, MORE THAN ONE IDENTITY CARD.

A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF A \$3 000 FINE FOR ANYONE WHO FAILS TO APPLY FOR A NEW CARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPECIFIED PROGRAMME IS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1983.

THE SIZE OF THE NEW IDENTITY CARD IS BETWEEN THAT OF THE EXISTING CARD AND THE STANDARD CREDIT CARD.

+THE NEW CARD HAS BEEN MADE SMALLER FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE SIZE IS THE MINIMUM POSSIBLE TO ALLOW FOR THE INCORPORATION OF ADEQUATE SECURITY FEATURES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+ONE OF THESE IS THAT THE PHOTOGRAPH WILL FORM PART OF THE CARD ITSELF, MAKING IT THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO FORGE.+

THE SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT THE INITIAL ISSUE OF THE NEW IDENTITY CARD AND ITS PERIODIC RENEWAL WOULD BE FREE OF CHARGE.

HOWEVER, EXISTING FEES FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF CARDS IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE INCREASED TO MEET THE FULL COSTS OF PROVIDING THE SERVICES, WITH ONE EXCEPTION. THE LAST REVISION OF FEES WAS SOME NINE YEARS AGO.

THE FEE FOR REPLACING A LOST OR DESTROYED CARD WILL BE RAISED FROM \$15 TO \$75. +THIS HOPEFULLY WILL BE A DISINCENTIVE TO PEOPLE WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE BE CARELESS WITH THEIR CARDS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

REPLACING A CARD DUE TO ALTERATION OF PARTICULARS WILL COST \$85 INSTEAD OF \$10. HOWEVER, A WOMAN WHO WISHES TO AMEND HER NAME ON CHANGE OF MARITAL STATUS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY FOR A REPLACEMENT CARD.

THE FEE FOR REPLACING A DAMAGED OR DEFACED CARD WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$15 TO \$30, OR LESS THAN HALF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COST. +THE REASON FOR NOT CHARGING THE FULL COST IS THAT WHILE THE NEW IDENTITY CARD IS DURABLE, IT WILL STILL BE SUBJECT TO SEVERE WEAR IN SOME CASES,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE FEE FOR THE ISSUE OF A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTERED PARTICULARS WILL BE RAISED FROM \$15 TO \$85.

THE REGULATIONS SPECIFY EIGHT NEW OFFICES AT WHICH THE NEW IDENTITY CARDS WILL BE ISSUED. THE LOCATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) HONG KONG NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE,
CARRIAN CENTRE, BASEMENT,
151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI,
HONG KONG.
- (2) EAST KOWLOON NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE,
AMOY GARDEN PLAZA, 2/F.,
77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD,
NGAU TAU KOK,
KOWLOON.
- (3) WEST KOWLOON NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE,
CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2/F.,
393 CANTON ROAD,
TSIM SHA TSUI,
KOWLOON.
- (4) TSUEN WAN NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE,
EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, G/F.,
29-37, TSUEN FU STREET,
TSUEN WAN,
NEW TERRITORIES.

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- (5) SHA TIN NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE,
SHA TIN CENTRE,
PODIUM FLOOR,
2-16 WANG POK STREET,
SHA TIN,
NEW TERRITORIES.
- (6) YUEN LONG NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE,
HOP YICK CENTRE, 2/F.,
HOP YICK ROAD,
YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES.
- (7) SHEUNG SHUI NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE,
TSUEN WO TAI LAU, G/F.,
82-84 SAN FUNG AVENUE,
SHEK WU HUI,
SHEUNG SHUI,
NEW TERRITORIES.
- (8) TUEN MUN NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE,
CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, G/F.,
CHI LOK FA YUEN,
NEW TERRITORIES.

THE REGULATIONS ALSO REQUIRE HOLDERS OF THE NEW CARD TO APPLY FOR A FRESH CARD BY THE EXPIRY DATE SHOWN ON THE NEW CARD.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE NEW IDENTITY CARD TO BE RE-ISSUED PERIODICALLY IN ORDER TO UPDATE THE INFORMATION AND THE PHOTOGRAPH ON THE CARD.

+IN ORDER TO STAGGER THE WORK LOAD OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT THE FIRST SUBSEQUENT RE-ISSUE OF THE NEW CARDS WILL BE PHASED OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING IN 1989,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED. +THIS MEANS THE VALIDITY OF INDIVIDUAL CARDS ISSUED FROM 1983 TO 1987 WILL VARY BETWEEN SIX AND TWELVE YEARS.+ THEREAFTER, ALL CARDS WILL NEED TO BE RENEWED EVERY TEN YEARS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WERE STILL RUMOURS THAT AN AMNESTY WOULD BE GRANTED TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RE-ISSUE EXERCISE.

+AS HAS BEEN STATED MANY TIMES BEFORE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF GRANTING AN AMNESTY EITHER ON THIS OCCASION OR AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE,+ HE STRESSED.

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HK PRESS PLAYING IMPORTANT ROLE
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THE PRESS IN HONG KONG HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY THAT IS PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR PETER TSAO, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

+IT IS NOT A CLICHE,+ HE STRESSED. +HOWEVER MUCH YOU MAY STILL FIND AN APPARENT CONFLICT BETWEEN OUR STATED OPINION AND THE RESPONSE OF SOME INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS, WE IN THE ADMINISTRATION ARE DEPENDENT UPON THE FREE AND EFFICIENT WORKINGS OF A PERCEPTIVE, WELL INFORMED AND OUTSPOKEN PRESS.+

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST NEWS PICTURES EXHIBITION - HIS FIRST PUBLIC FUNCTION AS DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES.

+WE NEED THE MIRROR THEY PROVIDE. WE ASK ONLY THAT THE MIRROR IS TRUTHFUL, THAT THE GLASS IS NOT DISTORTED, THAT THE OPINION REFLECTED IS TRANSMITTED WITH CLARITY AND PRECISION,+ HE SAID.

+WE EXPECT THE MIRROR TO BE CRITICAL. IF WE DIDN'T THERE WOULD BE NO POINT IN CONSULTING IT. BUT WE ALSO LOOK FOR OBJECTIVITY.

+WE MAY NOT LIKE WHAT WE SEE. WE MAY NOT EVEN AGREE WITH IT. BUT THAT IS NOT THE POINT. THE POINT IS THAT WE DO SEE IT THAT WE TAKE THE CRITICAL COMMENT INTO ACCOUNT AND THAT IT SERVES TO CONDITION OUR RESPONSE,+ MR TSAO ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT HIS NEW APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE MEDIA AS A MOVE TO CLEAR THE RUST FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION.

+WHILE I WOULD NOT PRESUME TO ADVISE HOW THE PRESS CORPS IN HONG KONG SHOULD BEHAVE -- THIS WOULD BE TEACHING GRANDMOTHER TO SUCK EGGS -- MAY I NEVERTHELESS SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD DO NO HARM FOR YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS, EQUALLY TO APPLY A LITTLE EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE BRILLIANCE AND ACCURACY OF THE MIRROR?+ MR TSAO SAID.

HE SAID PHOTO JOURNALISM HAD BECOME A +WELL-ESTABLISHED AND INFLUENTIAL MEANS OF COMMUNICATION IN OUR ACTIVE AND WIDELY-READ INFORMATION MEDIA WHERE THE ABUNDANCE OF THE WRITTEN WORD OFTEN DRIVES THE READER'S WEARY EYE TO MORE GRAPHIC AND IMMEDIATE FORMS OF EXPRESSION.+

+I HAVE TO SCAN A LOT OF NEWSPRINT IN THE COURSE OF A DAY'S WORK AND I MUST SAY I FIND MY EYE NOT ONLY DRAWN, BUT FREQUENTLY HELD, BY SOME PARTICULARLY TELLING PHOTOGRAPH.

/+OFTEN SUCH

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+OFTEN SUCH A PICTURE CAN CATCH, IN A GESTURE, A MOOD OR EXPRESSION, THE OVERTONES THAT THE ACCOMPANYING TEXT CANNOT CONVEY,+ HE SAID.

HE DESCRIBED THE PHOTOGRAPHERS OF THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST AS BEING AMONG THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS, ADDING THAT THE EXHIBITION TESTIFIED TO THE KEENNESS OF THEIR VISION.

+I CONGRATULATE THEM ON THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS. I ALSO COMMISERATE WITH THEM THAT, IN TRANSLATION TO THE NEWSPAPER PAGE, THE FINER DETAIL OF THEIR ART IS SOMETIMES LOST,+ HE SAID.

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HONG KONG GOVERNED BY CONSENSUS -- BRAY
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WHILE HONG KONG DOES NOT HAVE AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT, IT DOES HAVE A FREE PRESS AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE ONLY WAY TO GET THROUGH THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT IS TO REACH A CONSENSUS OF SOME SORT AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR BRAY NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT, NOT BEING AN ELECTED ONE, COULD NOT CALL AN ELECTION TO GET A MANDATE TO +RAM THROUGH+ A POLICY OR LAW. NEITHER COULD IT DECIDE CONTROVERSIAL MATTERS BY VOTING.

ANOTHER FEATURE OF OUR SYSTEM LEADING TO THE CONSENSUS POLITICS WAS OUR FREEDOMS IN THE PRESS, IN SPEECH AND IN ASSEMBLY.

+WE CANNOT STIFLE PROTEST SO WE SIMPLY HAVE TO COME TO ACCOMMODATION WITH IT,+ MR BRAY SAID.

+IF WE DID NOT DO SO BUT RELIED ON THE THEORETICALLY ABSOLUTE POWERS IN OUR WRITTEN CONSTITUTION AND STILL RETAINED OUR FREEDOMS THE PLACE WOULD RAPIDLY BECOME UNGOVERNABLE.

+HAPPILY I THINK WE HAVE ENOUGH SENSE BOTH IN THE GOVERNMENT AND AMONG OUR PEOPLE NOT TO LET THIS HAPPEN.+

EXPLAINING THE PUBLIC CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, MR BRAY SAID WHEN A BILL HAD BEEN INTRODUCED TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE DEBATE ON IT WAS ADJOURNED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SPEECH OF THE MEMBER PROPOSING THE BILL, AND THEREAFTER EVERYONE COULD +HAVE A GO AT IT+.

HE SAID THE PUBLIC COULD EITHER TACKLE THE GOVERNMENT DIRECT OR THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS THROUGH THE UMELCO OFFICE.

/+THESE UNOFFICIAL

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+THESE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL USUALLY FORM A COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE BILL AND INVITE OFFICIALS CONCERNED TO DISCUSSIONS ON IT,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND HONG KONG, MR BRAY SAID AMERICANS HAD BEEN IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AS LONG AS THE BRITISH AND TODAY MUST RANK WITH THE BRITISH IN PROMOTING THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG.

+CONSTITUTIONALLY IT IS BRITAIN WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTRATION HERE. ECONOMICALLY IT IS AMERICA WHICH IS THE MORE SIGNIFICANT.+

MR BRAY SAID IN 1982 AMERICA TOOK \$31 BILLION WORTH OF EXPORTS FROM HONG KONG OUT OF A TOTAL OF \$83 BILLION - NEARLY 40 PER CENT.

+NO OTHER COUNTRY COMES ANYWHERE NEAR THIS. EVEN IF ALL THE EEC COUNTRIES ARE ADDED UP THEY TOOK ONLY \$20 BILLION, WITH UK AND GERMANY TAKING \$7 BILLION EACH.+

ON IMPORTS, MR BRAY SAID WE BOUGHT OVER \$15 BILLION WORTH OF GOODS FROM AMERICA LAST YEAR, MAKING IT THIRD AMONG SUPPLIERS.

MR BRAY ALSO NOTED THAT NEARLY HALF THE FOREIGN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG WAS AMERICAN, FOLLOWED BY JAPAN WITH 30 PER CENT AND THE UK WITH SIX PER CENT.

+HONG KONG HAS MUCH TO OFFER AS A MARKET IN ITSELF, AS AN ENTREPOT AND AS A BASE FOR INDUSTRIAL JOINT VENTURES. IT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A POTENTIAL PARTNER IN THE SPREAD OF AMERICAN BUSINESS INTERESTS IN ASIA,+ HE SAID.

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GUANGDONG NUCLEAR POWER STATION PROJECT

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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND THE PRC MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND ELECTRIC POWER MET IN HONG KONG THIS WEEK FOR DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER STATION IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATED IN CERTAIN OF THE DISCUSSIONS. THESE MEETINGS FOLLOWED PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN GUANGZHOU, LONDON AND BEIJING.

THE DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE IN A FRIENDLY AND CO-OPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE, AND COVERED A NUMBER OF ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT INCLUDING FINANCE AND THE PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY FROM THE POWER STATION TO HONG KONG.

IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE DISCUSSIONS THAT, ALTHOUGH THE PROJECT INVOLVES COMPLEX PROPOSALS, IT COULD OFFER A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN THE PRC AND THE UK, AND COULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG.

THESE DISCUSSIONS, WHICH ARE PART OF A SERIES, WILL CONTINUE IN BEIJING NEXT WEEK.

THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY DELEGATION WAS LED BY MR GORDON MANZIE, DEPUTY SECRETARY. THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND ELECTRIC POWER DELEGATION WAS LED BY MR LI PENG, FIRST VICE-MINISTER.

MR JOHN BREMRIDGE, FINANCIAL SECRETARY, AND MR PIERS JACOBS, SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, EXPLAINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. LORD KADOORIE ALSO PARTICIPATED ON BEHALF OF CHINA LIGHT AND POWER IN SOME OF THE DISCUSSIONS.

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NEW RATES FOR EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION FOR RESUMED LAND
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLISHED THE LATEST RATES FOR EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION FOR RESUMED LAND IN TODAY'S (FRIDAY) GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THESE RATES, WHICH WILL BE EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1, ARE \$45.60 PER SQUARE FOOT FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND IN THE URBAN AREAS OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON AND \$78 PER SQUARE FOOT FOR BUILDING LAND WITHIN THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT AREAS.

THE RATES APPLICABLE TO LAND OUTSIDE THE DEVELOPMENT AREAS WILL BE THE APPROPRIATE PERCENTAGE OF THE BASIC RATES OF \$38 PER SQUARE FOOT FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND AND \$65 PER SQUARE FOOT FOR BUILDING LAND ALSO PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

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TIME FOR DISTRICT BOARDS TO CONSOLIDATE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED TO ALLOCATE \$31.7 MILLION TO THE 18 DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND URBAN AREAS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS DURING THE 1983-84 FISCAL YEAR.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION) OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MRS REGINA IP.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE ALLOCATION WOULD REPRESENT AN INCREASE OF \$2.08 MILLION, OR JUST OVER SEVEN PER CENT, COMPARED TO THE CURRENT YEAR'S FIGURE, SHE SAID.

MRS IP NOTED THAT THE RELATIVELY SMALL INCREASE OF FUNDS WAS TO BE EXPECTED IN VIEW OF THE GENERAL CONTRACTION OF EXPENDITURE BY THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

BUT SHE STRESSED THAT THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.

+NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE 18 DISTRICT BOARDS TO CONSOLIDATE AND TO GET GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY,+ SHE ADDED.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$2.08 MILLION WOULD BE SHARED AMONG THE 10 URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS, RANGING FROM AN INCREASE OF \$580 000 FOR KOWLOON CITY TO AN INCREASE OF \$120 000 EACH FOR KWUN TONG AND WONG TAI SIN.

+ALLOCATIONS TO THE EIGHT NT BOARDS REMAIN AT THE SAME LEVEL AS THE CURRENT YEAR BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO BRING ALLOCATIONS TO THE URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS PROGRESSIVELY MORE IN LINE WITH ALLOCATIONS TO THE NT BOARDS,+ SHE SAID.

+ALTHOUGH NT BOARDS ARE RECEIVING NIL INCREASE IN FUNDS IN THE COMING FISCAL YEAR, THERE HAVE BEEN SPECTACULAR INCREASES OF 60 PER CENT AND 120 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S ALLOCATION IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, WHILE ALLOCATIONS TO THE URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE YET TO BE TOPPED UP.

+ALSO URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE ACQUIRED GREATER EXPERIENCE IN SPENDING FUNDS ON WORTHWHILE PROJECTS AND THE DEMAND FOR ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE BOARDS IS STEADILY INCREASING.

+OF COURSE THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE IS ANY SLOWDOWN IN THE DEMAND FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+BUT GIVEN THE LOWER LEVEL OF ALLOCATIONS TO THE URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS AT PRESENT, IT IS FELT THAT, ON BALANCE, PRIORITY OUGHT TO BE GIVEN TO THE URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR,+ MRS IP SAID.

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OF THE TOTAL, \$18.84 MILLION WILL BE ALLOCATED TO THE EIGHT NT BOARDS, \$12.15 MILLION TO THE 10 URBAN BOARDS, AND THE REMAINING \$710 000 WILL BE KEPT IN CNTA HEADQUARTERS AS A RESERVE FUND.

FOR THE NT REGION, TSUEN WAN WILL GET THE LARGEST SHARE OF \$5.3 MILLION, FOLLOWED BY YUEN LONG WITH \$2.9 MILLION.

BOTH TUEN MUN AND SHA TIN WILL EACH HAVE \$2.42 MILLION, WHILE ISLANDS, NORTH DISTRICT, SAI KUNG AND TAI PO WILL EACH GET \$1.45 MILLION.

IN THE URBAN AREAS, KWUN TONG AND WONG TAI SIN WILL EACH RECEIVE \$1.85 MILLION.

KOWLOON CITY, SHAM SHUI PO AND EASTERN ARE GETTING \$1.45 MILLION EACH, FOLLOWED BY SOUTHERN WITH \$1.2 MILLION.

THE REMAINING FOUR DISTRICTS - MONG KOK, YAU MA TEI, WAN CHAI AND CENTRAL AND WESTERN - WILL EACH HAVE \$725 000.

REFERRING TO THE DIFFERENCES IN THE ALLOCATIONS BETWEEN THE DISTRICTS, MRS IP EXPLAINED THAT ALLOCATIONS WERE PARTLY DETERMINED BY THE SIZE OF THE POPULATION, THE DEMAND FOR ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL, AND SPECIFIC INCREASES IN DEMAND DUE TO THE TIMELY COMPLETION OF COMMUNITY CENTRES OR TOWN HALLS OR OTHER FACTORS.

+IN THE URBAN DISTRICTS, KWUN TONG HAS THE HIGHEST POPULATION OF OVER 600 000. WONG TAI SIN, KOWLOON CITY, SHAM SHUI PO AND EASTERN EACH HAS OVER 400 000 WHILE IN WONG TAI SIN THERE IS A TREMENDOUS DEMAND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE SQUATTER AREAS,+ SHE SAID.

+IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, TSUEN WAN AND YUEN LONG HAVE BIGGER ALLOCATIONS THAN OTHER DISTRICTS BECAUSE OF THE EXISTENCE OF ONE OR MORE TOWN HALLS SERVING AS A NUCLEUS OF LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES,+ SHE EXPLAINED.

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NEW CAR PARKING CHARGES AT AIRPORT

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A NEW SCALE OF CHARGES WILL BE LEVIED ON PARKING AT THE MULTI-STORY AND OPEN-AIR CAR PARKS AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

THE REVISED PARKING FEES WILL BE \$4 PER HOUR FOR THE FIRST TWO HOURS AND \$8 PER HOUR THEREAFTER, AS AGAINST THE PRESENT RATE OF \$2 AND \$4 RESPECTIVELY.

THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF PARKING FEES WAS BROUGHT INTO EFFECT IN 1979 AND HAS SINCE REMAINED UNCHANGED.

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AN AIRPORT MANAGEMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE FEES WERE ADJUSTED MAINLY TO OFFSET RISING OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.

+THE PARKING FEES OF \$4 PER HOUR WILL STILL BE BELOW THE FULL MARKET RATES,+ HE SAID.

+THE PARKING FEES FROM THE THIRD HOUR ONWARDS ARE DOUBLED TO DISCOURAGE LONG-TERM PARKING AND TO MAKE AVAILABLE MORE PARKING SPACES FOR SHORT-TERM USERS,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE AIRPORT MANAGEMENT SHOW THAT 92 PER CENT OF THE CAR PARK USERS PARK THEIR VEHICLES FOR TWO HOURS OR LESS.

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**TUEN MUN TRAIL STAGE ONE OPENS TOMORROW
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THE FIRST STAGE OF TUEN MUN TRAIL, WHICH WILL SERVE AS A WALKING AND JOGGING TRACK AS WELL AS A PICNIC SPOT, WILL BE OPENED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BILLY LAM, TOMORROW (SATURDAY) MORNING.

WORK ON THE TRAIL BEGAN IN LATE 1981, AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1985.

UPON COMPLETION, THE 11-KILOMETRE TRAIL WILL ENCIRCLE THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, PASSING THROUGH GREEN BELT AREAS, PARKS AND A BEACH. LOOK-OUT PAVILIONS AND RAIN SHELTERS WILL ALSO BE BUILT AT VANTAGE POINTS ALONG THE TRAIL.

THE FIRST STAGE OF THE TRAIL ABOUT 1 200 METRES IN LENGTH, LIES BETWEEN THE ACCESS ROAD NEAR HO FUK TONG SCHOOL AND THE SERVICE RESERVOIR AT FU TEI.

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**STREET CABLE LAYING WORK
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ABERDEEN STREET IN CENTRAL BETWEEN GOUGH STREET AND WELLINGTON STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING 2-1/2 TONS IN UNLADEN WEIGHT FROM 3 PM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 19) TO 11 PM THE NEXT DAY.

THIS TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT IS TO ALLOW FOR CABLE LAYING WORK.

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FARMERS ENCOURAGED TO CULTIVATE MORE LAND
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HONG KONG'S FARMERS WERE URGED TODAY TO CULTIVATE MORE LAND TO MAKE UP FOR THE DECLINE IN VEGETABLE FARMING.

WHILE NOTING THAT THE LOSS RATE OF LAND UNDER VEGETABLE CULTIVATION WAS MUCH LOWER LAST YEAR THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN, TOLD THE FARMERS, NEVERTHELESS THAT +THE CONTINUED LOSS OF FARMING LAND MUST BE MADE UP FOR BY SPECIAL EFFORTS.+

HE TOLD THEM TO BRING BACK INTO CULTIVATION AVAILABLE SUITABLE FALLOW LAND, AND TO USE MORE MODERN TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT TO MAXIMISE PRODUCTIVITY.

DR RIDDELL-SWAN WAS SPEAKING THIS EVENING AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE 31ST TERM COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION OF VEGETABLE MARKETING COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

HE ALSO TOLD THE FARMERS THAT THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WOULD HELP ANY FARMER INTERESTED IN LAND DEVELOPMENT AND IN INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY BY PROVIDING TECHNICAL HELP AND LOANS +WHERE NECESSARY FROM DEPARTMENTALLY-ADMINISTERED FUNDS+.

DR RIDDELL-SWAN POINTED OUT THAT LAST YEAR, 1 180 LOANS TOTALLING \$12 028 300 WERE MADE TO FARMERS ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE, DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS MADE 43 800 VISITS TO HELP FARMERS AND PROVIDE ADVICE.

HE SAID ALSO THAT THE WEATHER LAST YEAR WAS NOT ALL GOOD FOR VEGETABLE FARMING. THE HIGH RAINFALL, WHICH WAS ABOUT 46 PER CENT ABOVE AVERAGE, CAUSED A BIG REDUCTION IN VEGETABLE OUTPUT.

+AND THE TWO SEVERE RAINSTORMS IN MAY AND AUGUST HAD A PARTICULARLY SERIOUS EFFECT,+ HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, THESE SETBACKS WERE OFFSET, AT LEAST TO SOME EXTENT, BY HIGHER PRICES AND THE VALUE OF VEGETABLES MARKETED THROUGH THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION IN 1982 ROSE SOME SIX PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH 1981, HE SAID.

DR RIDDELL-SWAN THANKED THE OUT-GOING CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION MR KO HOK AND HIS COMMITTEE FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND CO-OPERATION WITH HIS DEPARTMENT DURING THE PAST YEAR, AND CONGRATULATED THE INCOMING CHAIRMAN MR FUNG KWONG AND THEIR COMMITTEE ON THEIR ELECTION.

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PLANTS FEATURED IN COUNTRY PARKS BADGES

TWO SPECIES OF PLANTS INDIGENOUS TO HONG KONG ARE FEATURED ON TWO NEWLY DESIGNED CLOTH BADGES PRODUCED BY THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY.

THE BADGES HERALD IN A NEW GENERATION OF SOUVENIR BADGES WHICH WILL HAVE DESIGNS OF SPECIAL PLANTS FOUND IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRY PARKS IN HONG KONG.

THE NEW BADGES, FOR THE SHING MUN AND THE ABERDEEN COUNTRY PARKS, WERE PUT ON SALE AT THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S COUNTRY PARKS DISPLAY AT THE URBAN COUNCIL FLOWER SHOW WHICH OPENED TODAY (FRIDAY) AT THE CITY HALL.

THEY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT \$1.50 EACH FROM THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF THE CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN KOWLOON; THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE G.P.O. BUILDING IN CONNAUGHT PLACE ON HONG KONG ISLAND; AND AT THE MANAGEMENT CENTRES OF THE TWO COUNTRY PARKS.

THE DESIGN OF THE SHING MUN COUNTRY PARK BADGE FEATURES A FLOWER OF A BEAUTIFUL TREE, GRANTHAM'S CAMELLIA, WHICH WAS FIRST DISCOVERED IN THE WOODLANDS NEAR SHING MUN IN 1955. IT WAS NAMED IN HONOUR OF THE THEN GOVERNOR, SIR ALEXANDER GRANTHAM BY BOTANIST DR J.R. SEALY.

THE SQUARE-SHAPED BADGE HAS A MAROON-COLOURED BACKGROUND BORDERED IN YELLOW.

THE CAMELLIA FLOWERS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, AND IS SPECIALLY PROTECTED BECAUSE OF ITS RARITY.

THE ABERDEEN COUNTRY PARK BADGE DEPICTS THE POD AND SEEDS OF A SMALL DECIDUOUS TREE CALLED THE EMARGINATE-LEAVED ORMOSIA, AN INDIGENOUS SPECIES FIRST NOTED IN 1852 BY BOTANIST G. BENTHAM WHO WROTE +FLORA HONGKONGENSIS+ PUBLISHED IN 1861.

THE ORMOSIA LEAVES ARE PINNATE WITH THREE TO FIVE LEATHERY LEAFLETS THE TIP OF WHICH HAVE A NOTCH.

THE LIKENESS OF THE PLANT IS SEWN ON A LIGHT GREY BACKGROUND ON THE BADGE.

EACH BADGE IS COUPLED WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT.

STOCKS OF SEVEN OTHER BADGES PRODUCED PREVIOUSLY FOR COUNTRY PARKS AND ANOTHER FOR THE MACLEHOSE TRAIL, AND COUNTRY PARKS PUBLICATIONS, VESTS AND T-SHIRTS ARE ALSO ON SALE AT THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT DISPLAY IN THE CITY HALL.