DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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INCREASE IN FIREARMS PENALTY SOUGHT

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING FURTHER STEPS TO CLAMP DOWN ON THE USE OF FIREARMS IN CRIME BY SEEKING TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR THREE SERIOUS FIREARM OFFENCES FROM 14 YEARS' TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO PROPOSED TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES SUBSTANTIALLY FOR TWO SIMILAR OFFENCES OF A LESS SERIOUS NATURE.

THE NEW MAXIMUM PENALTIES, WHICH WERE RECOMMENDED BY A FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF THE USE OF FIREARMS IN CRIME, ARE CONTAINED IN THE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 WHICH IS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE BILL REFLECTED THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO HALT THE INCREASING USE OF FIREARMS IN CRIME BY MAKING THOSE WHO COMMIT SUCH OFFENCES LIABLE TO LONG TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT.

FURTHER LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS WERE UNDER PREPARATION WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING TIGHTER RESTRICTIONS ON THE AVAILABILITY OF IMITATION FIREARMS, HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT LIFE IMPRISONMENT WAS PROPOSED FOR THE OFFENCES OF POSSESSING ARMS OR AMMUNITION WITH INTENT TO ENDANGER LIFE, USING ARMS OR AMMUNITION OR IMITATION FIREARMS TO RESIST ARREST, AND CARRYING ARMS OR AMMUNITION OR IMITATION FIREARMS WITH CRIMINAL INTENT.

IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE MAXIMUM PENALTY BE INCREASED FROM 10 YEARS TO 14 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT FOR POSSESSING ARMS OR AMMUNITION WITHOUT A LICENCE, AND FROM FIVE YEARS TO 14 YEARS FOR CONVERTING AN IMITATION FIREARM INTO A GENUINE FIREARM.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE BILL ALSO SOUGHT TO AMEND THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE SO THAT IF A DEFENDANT IS ACQUITTED OF POSSESSING AN IMITATION FIREARM WITH CRIMINAL INTENT, HE MAY BE CONVICTED OF THE LESSER ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE OF SIMPLE POSSESSION.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSED TO AMEND THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE SO THAT CASES INVOLVING THE THREE SERIOUS FIREARM OFFENCES CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DISTRICT COURT.

THE BILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR FIRST READING ON JULY 11 AND TO COMPLETE THE REMAINING LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES ON JULY 25.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL MAY WRITE TO THE UMELCO AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD; OR THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY AT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MAIN WING, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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GOVERNOR RETURNING FROM LONDON
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL RETURN FROM LONDON TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH MINISTERS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

SIR EDWARD WILL BE ARRIVING ON FLIGHT BR 382, ETA 6.20 PM.

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TATTOO BILL SEEKS TO PROTECT YOUTHS
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IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE TO TATTOO A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18, UNDER PROPOSED LEGISLATION PUBLISHED TODAY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE LEGAL SANCTION WAS TO PROTECT YOUNG PEOPLE AGAINST MAKING AN IRREVERSIBLE DECISION THAT MIGHT RESULT IN THEM CARRYING A SOCIAL STIGMA FOR LIFE.

HE ISSUED A WARNING TO THOSE WHO MIGHT STILL TRY TO TATTOO THEMSELVES OR PERSUADE FRIENDS TO TATTOO THEM, IF THE BILL IS PASSED INTO LAW.

+THIS WOULD BE A VERY FOOLISH THING TO DO BECAUSE TATTOOS DONE UNPROFESSIONALLY CAN CAUSE A NUMBER OF DISEASES, INCLUDING SKIN INFECTIONS AND SERUM HEPATITIS,+ HE SAID.

A SURVEY OF SOME 400 BOYS AND GIRLS RESIDING IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE SHOWED THAT NEARLY 40 PER CENT OF THEM HAD TATTOOS, WHICH WERE DONE ON AVERAGE WHEN THEY WERE AGED 13 AND 14.

ANOTHER SURVEY OF OVER 1 600 YOUNG OFFENDERS IN CORRECTIONAL SERVICES INSTITUTIONS SHOWED A SIMILAR PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS WITH TATTOOS. IN NEARLY NINE OUT OF TEN CASES (87.5 PER CENT) THE TATTOOS WERE DONE WHEN THEY WERE UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

+THESE SURVEYS AND THE EXPERIENCE OF MAGISTRATES CLEARLY INDICATE A TENDENCY FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS TO BE TATTOOED. THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN TATTOOS AND YOUNG PERSONS WITH CRIMINAL OR ANTI-SOCIAL TENDENCIES MAKES THE REHABILITATION OF SUCH YOUTHS MORE DIFFICULT IN THAT TATTOOS ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO REMOVE, EVEN WITH THE LATEST LASER TECHNIQUES. THEY MAY THEREFORE HAVE TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCE OF AN IMPULSIVE DECISION FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/THE TATTOOING .....

THE TATTOOING OF YOUNG PERSONS BILL 1984 PUBLISHED TODAY IS BASED ON THE UK TATTOOING OF MINORS ACT 1969 WHICH MAKES IT A CRIMINAL OFFENCE FOR A PERSON TO TATTOO ANOTHER WHO IS UNDER THE AGE OF 18. THE BILL PROPOSES TO CHARGE THE TATTOO ARTIST WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHECKING THE AGE OF HIS CLIENTS, SUCH AS BY DEMANDING THE PRODUCTION OF AN IDENTITY CARD. THE AGE RESTRICTION WILL NOT APPLY TO TATTOOS PERFORMED FOR MEDICAL REASONS BY A REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 11) AND IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE ITS THIRD READING ON JULY 25.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON ITS PROVISIONS MAY WRITE TO UMELCO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE TO MEET IN PUBLIC

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THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE, A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IN FUTURE IS TO MEET IN PUBLIC WHEN CONTROLLING OFFICERS OF SECRETARIAT BRANCHES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ARE ASKED TO GIVE ACCOUNT OF SPENDINGS OR LOST REVENUE QUERIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY MR S.L. CHEN AND COMPRISING SIX OTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, INTENDS TO HOLD ITS HEARINGS OF EVIDENCE IN PUBLIC WHEN IT RECONVENES LATER THIS YEAR TO CONSIDER THE AUDIT REPORT FOR 1983-84.

THIS FOLLOWS THE SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT IN MARCH THIS YEAR OF HOLDING PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE OTHER STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR. THROUGH WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THESE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS, THE PUBLIC WERE ABLE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO USE THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY IN 1984-85.

THE OPEN MEETINGS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL FURTHER SHOW HOW THE CONTROLLING OFFICERS ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE USE OF THIS MONEY. THE COMMITTEE MEETS IN NOVEMBER EACH YEAR TO CONSIDER THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE GOVERNMENT. MOST OF ITS EXAMINATIONS ARE CONCERNED WITH THE VALUE FOR MONEY OBTAINED BY CONTROLLING OFFICERS IN SPENDING THE FUNDS ENTRUSTED TO THEM.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT HAVING MEETINGS IN PUBLIC WAS ONE OF A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE TO ENHANCE ITS ROLE AS THE PUBLIC WATCHDOG OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.

/THE RECOMMENDATIONS .....

THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE DRAWN FROM A REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON HOW IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE, MAKING COMPARISON WITH THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE IN BRITAIN WHICH HAS MET IN PUBLIC SINCE 1978.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD RETAIN THE POWER TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS FROM ITS MEETINGS IN CASES WHERE IT THOUGHT THE PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIRED CONFIDENTIALITY.

TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND TO RE-ORGANISE THE AUDIT CYCLE, SO THAT THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT WOULD ALREADY BE A PUBLISHED DOCUMENT WHEN THE PAC MET TO CONSIDER IT IN PUBLIC SESSION. IN THE PAST THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT WAS ONLY TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WAS READY FOR PRESENTATION.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS WILL BE MADE BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 18.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE AUDIT CYCLE IS PROPOSED UNDER AN AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

THE BILL IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE ITS THIRD READING ALSO ON JULY 18, IN TIME FOR THE OPEN MEETINGS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE NEXT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON THE BILL MAY WRITE TO UMELCO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, OR TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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OFFICIALS TO HAVE NO DB VOTING RIGHTS

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GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL CEASE TO BE FULL MEMBERS OF DISTRICT BOARDS AFTER THE ELECTIONS IN MARCH NEXT YEAR, BUT WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEND MEETINGS THOUGH THEY WILL HAVE NO VOTING RIGHTS.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE BILL FOLLOWS A RECENTLY COMPLETED REVIEW OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES AND ARRANGEMENTS, AND PAVES THE WAY FOR THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS TO BE INCREASED FROM 132 TO 236 FOR THE MARCH 1985 ELECTIONS.

/A SPOKESMAN .....

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY THAT DURING CONSULTATIONS WITH BOARD UNOFFICIALS IN JANUARY, MANY MEMBERS FAVOURED THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES AT BOARD MEETINGS, BUT FELT THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE NO VOTING RIGHTS.

+THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THIS, AND FROM NEXT APRIL DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE 'IN ATTENDANCE' AT DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS TO PRESENT PAPERS, ANSWER QUESTIONS AND EXPLAIN GOVERNMENT POLICIES,+ HE SAID.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD WILL BE AN UNOFFICIAL, ELECTED BY BOTH THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED MEMBERS. THE DISTRICT OFFICER WILL, HOWEVER, REMAIN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND HEAD OF THE DISTRICT OFFICIAL TEAM.

IN LINE WITH THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ELECTED SEATS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THE NUMBER OF DISTRICT BOARD CONSTITUENCIES FOR NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS WILL ALSO BE INCREASED FROM THE PRESENT 122 TO 145 -- COMPRISING 83 CONSTITUENCIES IN THE URBAN AREAS AND 62 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THERE WOULD BE A MIX OF SINGLE AND DOUBLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES, DEPENDING ON POPULATION DENSITIES IN THE RESPECTIVE AREAS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT HAD ALSO BEEN DECIDED TO CREATE A NEW DISTRICT BOARD FOR KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI IN ADDITION TO THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD.

COMMENTING ON THE BILL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID A SERIES OF AMENDMENTS, MAINLY OF A TIDYING-UP NATURE, WOULD BE MADE TO EXISTING ELECTION PROCEDURES CONTAINED IN THE DISTRICT BOARDS ORDINANCE, THE URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE, THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE, AND THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE.

THE AMENDMENTS WERE DESIGNED TO STREAMLINE ELECTION PROCEDURES AND GENERALLY TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS, HE SAID.

ONE CLAUSE IN THE BILL PROVIDES FOR ANY PERSON WHO REACHES THE AGE OF 21 BY DECEMBER 31 IN A REGISTRATION YEAR TO REGISTER AS AN ELECTOR.

ANOTHER CLAUSE PROPOSES THE DISQUALIFICATION OF A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER WHO IS ABSENT FROM MEETINGS FOR SIX CONSECUTIVE MONTHS WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE. SIMILAR PROVISIONS ALREADY EXIST IN THE URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE.

THE BILL ALSO INTRODUCES A NEW CLAUSE IN THE DISTRICT BOARD ORDINANCE TO DISQUALIFY ANY MEMBER WHO IS CONVICTED OF OFFENCES UNDER THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE AND THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE, NOT ONLY BEFORE BUT ALSO AFTER HIS ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD.

/SIMILAR DISQUALIFICATION .....

SIMILAR DISQUALIFICATION WILL APPLY UNDER THE URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO TIGHTEN CONTROL ON THE RETURN AND DECLARATION OF ELECTION EXPENSES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN FUTURE A CANDIDATE IN AN URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION WOULD BE PERMITTED TO SPEND UP TO $35 000 IN ELECTION EXPENSES, COMPARED WITH THE PRESENT $23 000.

THE MAXIMUM LEVEL FOR A CANDIDATE SEEKING ELECTION TO THE DISTRICT BOARD WOULD BE RAISED FROM $13 000 TO $20 000.

+THE AMOUNT FOR URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS IS HIGHER BECAUSE URBAN COUNCIL CONSTITUENCIES ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY LARGER AND HAVE A HIGHER POPULATION,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

CANDIDATES WILL BE REQUIRED TO GIVE A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THEIR ELECTION EXPENSES WITHIN A SET TIME LIMIT.

THE BILL ALSO MAKES IT CLEAR THAT MONEY RECEIVED BY A CANDIDATE OR HIS AGENT FOR ELECTION PURPOSES SHALL ONLY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EXPERIENCE IN THE LAST DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS HAD SHOWN THAT VOTING WAS LIGHT IN THE EARLY MORNING AND HEAVIEST DURING THE EVENING.

+IN VIEW OF THIS, THE POLLING HOURS IN FUTURE HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO START AT 7.30 AM AND CLOSING AT 10.30 PM,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 11) FOR FIRST AND SECOND READING, AND FOR THIRD READING ON JULY 25.

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BILL AIMS TO CLARIFY TAX SURCHARGE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO AMEND THE LAW TO STATE CLEARLY THAT THE INITIAL SURCHARGE OF FIVE PER CENT ON TAX OR RATES IN DEFAULT IS ALSO SUBJECT TO A FURTHER SURCHARGE IF NOT PAID WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

THESE AMENDMENTS ARE MADE UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1984 AND THE RATING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984 PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

COMMENTING ON THE AMENDMENTS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION, A PERSON MAY HAVE TO PAY A SURCHARGE OF FIVE PER CENT ON TAX OR RATES UNPAID, BY THE DUE DATE AND A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF UP TO 10 PER CENT IF THE TOTAL AMOUNT IS STILL OUTSTANDING AFTER SIX MONTHS.

/THE EXISTING .....

THE EXISTING LEGISLATION IS, HOWEVER, UNCLEAR. THE AMENDMENTS ARE INTENDED TO SPELL OUT CLEARLY THAT, AT THE EXPIRY OF A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS AFTER A DEFAULT IN PAYMENT, GOVERNMENT MAY IMPOSE A SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT ON THE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT OF BOTH THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT IN DEFAULT AND THE SURCHARGE OF FIVE PER CENT IMPOSED AT THE TIME OF DEFAULT; OR IF THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT IS NO LONGER IN DEFAULT (THAT IS IF THAT AMOUNT HAS BEEN PAID DURING THE SIX MONTHS PERIOD) ON THE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT OF THE INITIAL SURCHARGE.

+AS THE SURCHARGE IS SPECIFICALLY INTENDED TO BE A DETERRENT AGAINST LATE PAYMENTS, IT IS AN ANOMALY NOT TO IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL SURCHARGE ON THE INITIAL FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE WHICH HAS REMAINED UNPAID+, HE EXPLAINED.

THE TWO BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 11) AND ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THEIR THIRD READING ON JULY 25.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON THESE PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS MAY WRITE TO UMELCO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12/F, CHATER ROAD, HONG KONG OR TO THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, AT WINDSOR HOUSE, 311 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG, OR THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES, AT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG.

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LEVY PLANNED FOR WAGE PROTECTION

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO IMPOSE AN ANNUAL LEVY ON BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES FROM OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR TO FINANCE THE OPERATION OF ITS PLANNED PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND.

THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 1984, GAZETTED TODAY AND TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 11) MAKES THE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY WORKERS OF COMPANIES IN RECEIVERSHIP, WHOSE REPORT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO SET UP A PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND TO MAKE PROMPT PAYMENT OF WAGES OWED BY EMPLOYERS TO THE WORKERS OF COMPANIES IN RECEIVERSHIP. LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH THE FUND IS CURRENTLY BEING DRAFTED AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY.

THE ANNUAL LEVY PROPOSED ON BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES TO FINANCE THE FUND'S OPERATION WILL INITIALLY BE SET AT $100, IN LINE WITH THE WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

/A SPOKESMAN .....

A SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANY DELAY IN PAYMENTS FROM THIS FUND, AND THE DECISION TO IMPOSE A LEVY ON BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES FROM OCTOBER 1 WOULD ALLOW WORKING CAPITAL TO BE ACCUMULATED WHILE LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH THE FUND WAS BEING FINALISED.

+THIS WOULD ENABLE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE FROM THE FUND AS SOON AS IT IS ESTABLISHED. OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE SOME MONTHS' DELAY UNTIL THE FUND BUILT UP SUFFICIENT CAPITAL TO MEET DEMANDS FOR PAYMENT.+

THE LEVY WILL BE PAYABLE IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL FEE FOR BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES HELD BY BOTH MAIN AND BRANCH OFFICES OF A BUSINESS. BUSINESSES CURRENTLY EXEMPTED FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO HOLD A BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE BILL.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON THE BILL'S PROVISIONS MAY WRITE TO UMELCO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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BILL TO IMPROVE JURY SELECTION

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THE METHODS OF SELECTING PERSONS FOR JURY SERVICE WILL BE IMPROVED IF A JURY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 PUBLISHED TODAY IS ACCEPTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE BILL PROPOSES TO AUGMENT THE LIST OF JURORS BY RETAINING THOSE WHO ARE AGED OVER 60 BUT UNDER 65, AND INCLUDING CIVIL SERVANTS AND TEACHERS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE AGE LIMIT COULD BE RAISED TO 65 BECAUSE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG NOW ENJOY GREATER EXPECTATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE, AND IT WOULD BE A LOSS TO THE COMMUNITY IF OLDER BUT WIDELY EXPERIENCED PEOPLE WERE EXCLUDED FROM JURY SERVICE.

BY INCLUDING CIVIL SERVANTS AND TEACHERS AND ACADEMICS, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO RELIEVE THE BURDEN OF JURY SERVICE ON THE EXISTING JURORS AND MAKE THE JURY PANEL MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMUNITY, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT SHOULD TEACHERS BE SELECTED FOR JURY SERVICE, AT A TIME DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR STUDENTS, SUCH AS SHORTLY BEFORE EXAMINATIONS, THEY COULD APPLY FOR TEMPORARY EXEMPTION TO +A LESS CRITICAL TIME+ AND WOULD BE GIVEN SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION.

EXEMPTIONS WILL BE GRANTED, TO PEOPLE WHOSE PROFESSION OR EMPLOYMENT IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH JURY SERVICE, SUCH AS MEMBERS OF LAW ENFORCING AGENCIES, AS WELL AS TO FULL-TIME STUDENTS OF ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR LEVEL OF STUDY, AND MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS.

/THE BILL .....

THE BILL FURTHER PROPOSES TO ALLOW FOR MORE MODERN METHODS OF SELECTING JURORS.

INSTEAD OF DRAWING CARDS FROM BALLOT BOXES AS AT PRESENT, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO FORM A PANEL OF JURORS BY RANDOM SELECTION WITH THE HELP OF A COMPUTER.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT SET OUT IN THE BILL EMPOWERS THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT AND THE COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION TO REQUIRE ANY PERSON TO SUPPLY INFORMATION FOR THE COMPILATION OF A FULL JURY LIST. UNDER THIS STATUTORY REQUIREMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY WILL BE ASKED TO SUPPLY DETAILS OF ALL PEOPLE WHO HAVE PASSED ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXAMINATIONS AT THE REQUISITE LEVEL.

THE DETERRENT AGAINST EMPLOYERS DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THEIR EMPLOYEES BECAUSE OF THEIR JURY SERVICE WILL BE STRENGTHENED. THE EXISTING PENALTY OF $5 000 IS TO BE RAISED TO A FINE OF $25 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS.

A JUROR WHO, HAVING ANSWERED A SUMMONS FOR JURY SERVICE, FAILS TO APPEAR OR WHO WITHDRAWS HIMSELF, AFTER HE IS EMPANELLED, WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE JUDGE MAY ALSO BE CHARGED WITH CONTEMPT OF COURT.

THE JURY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, WHICH HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE JUDICIARY, IS TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 11) AND IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE ITS THIRD READING ON JULY 25.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON ITS PROVISIONS MAY WRITE TO UMELCO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, OR TO THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT, AT QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

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BILL PROVIDES LICENSING EXEMPTIONS ON GOODS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INTRODUCING LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO ENABLE CERTAIN ARTICLES TO BE EXEMPT FROM IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS WHEN THEY ARE TRANSHIPPED THROUGH HONG KONG BY ELIGIBLE PERSONS.

THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984 AND THE RESERVED COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY), SEEK TO EMPOWER THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE TO GRANT EXEMPTIONS FROM LICENSING REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANSHIPMENT OF CARGO.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT TO FACILITATE THE TRANSHIPMENT OF CARGO SUBJECT TO IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENSING, THE DEPARTMENT HAS FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS SIMPLIFIED THE LICENSING PROCEDURES, ON AN INTERIM BASIS, FOR FOUR TYPES OF TRANSHIPMENT CARGO: TEXTILES, PROCESSED AND MANUFACTURED FOODSTUFFS, ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS POWERED BY MAINS SUPPLY, PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND MEDICINES.

/THE PRESENT .....

THE PRESENT PROPOSALS WILL REPLACE THE INTERIM LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTEND THE TYPES OF TRANSHIPMENT CARGO COVERED.

+SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS BEING MET, SHIPPING AND AIRLINE COMPANIES AND THEIR AGENTS REGISTERED WITH THE TRADE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SCHEME, ARE EXEMPT FROM IMPORT-EXPORT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS IN RESPECT OF TRANSHIPMENTS OF TEXTILES, PROCESSED AND MANUFACTURED FOODSTUFFS, ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS POWERED BY MAINS SUPPLY, PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND MEDICINES, RESERVED COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES, IF TRANSHIPPED WITHIN THE PREMISES OF THE HONG KONG AIR CARGO TERMINALS LIMITED (HACTL),+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE FIRST READING AND COMMENCEMENT OF SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE TWO BILLS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 11) AND THE RESUMED SECOND READING DEBATE, COMMITTEE STAGE AND THE THIRD READING ON JULY 25.

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HK GROUP TO VISIT SHENZHEN

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A DELEGATION OF HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL VISIT SHENZHEN AT THE INVITATION OF MR ZHEN XIPEI, DEPUTY MAYOR OF SHENZHEN ON JULY 11 AND 12.

THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO REVIEW PROGRESS MADE IN THE HONG KONG/SHENZHEN JOINT WORKING GROUPS WHICH WERE SET UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN AGREEMENT SIGNED ON APRIL 30, 1982.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY THE ACTING POLITICAL ADVISER, MR RICHARD MARGOLIS. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ARE:

MR A HSU	(ACTING REGIONAL SECRETARY, NEW TERRITORIES)
MR J YUE	(DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT)
MR C LEEKS	(PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY)
MR H C YEUNG	(ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT)
MR H L KWONG	(SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT)
MR J A KESSLER	(CHIEF ENGINEER HIGHWAYS, HIGHWAYS OFFICE)
MISS VIVIEN FONG	(INTERPRETER)

IN ADDITION TO THE REVIEW MEETING, THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL VISIT PLACES OF INTEREST IN THE SHENZHEN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE.

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BILL WIDENS CLAIMS LIMITATION PROVISION

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A PROPOSAL TO VALIDATE CERTAIN PARAGRAPHS IN TWO EXISTING RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT WHICH, IN SPECIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES, ALLOW NEW CLAIMS TO BE MADE IN ACTIONS AFTER THE EXPIRY OF LIMITATION PERIODS AFFECTING THE CLAIMS, IS PUBLISHED TODAY UNDER AN AMENDMENT BILL.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE COURT OF APPEAL RECENTLY HELD THAT ONE PARAGRAPH OF THESE RULES WAS VOID, AND IT FOLLOWED FROM THE DECISION THAT THE OTHER RULES WERE ALSO VOID BECAUSE THERE WAS NO AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT THEM.

THE PARAGRAPHS IN QUESTION WERE COPIED FROM THE UK RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT WHICH ARE SPECIFICALLY AUTHORISED BY THE LIMITATION ACT 1980.

SIMILAR AUTHORISATION OF THE RULES IN HONG KONG IS NOW PROPOSED UNDER A LIMITATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, WHICH HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE LAW SOCIETY AND THE BAR ASSOCIATION, HE SAID.

THE BILL IS TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 11) AND IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE ITS THIRD READING ON JULY 25.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON IT MAY WRITE TO UMELCO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, OR TO THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT, AT QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

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EXTENDED LEGAL AID SCHEME PROPOSED

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SEVERAL CHANGES TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF LEGAL AID ARE CONTAINED IN THE LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) BILL, WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 11).

THE BILL, PUBLISHED TODAY IN THE GAZETTE, ALSO SEEKS TO ESTABLISH THE SUPPLEMENTARY LEGAL AID SCHEME WHEREBY LEGAL AID IS TO BE EXTENDED TO APPLICANTS WITH AN INCOME NOT EXCEEDING $15 000 A MONTH AND CAPITAL AFTER ALLOWANCES OF $100 000.

THE SCHEME IS LIMITED TO CASES BROUGHT BY PLAINTIFFS IN THE HIGH COURT FOR DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURIES OR DEATH BUT EXCLUDES MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE CLAIMS.

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OLYMPIC GESTURE FOR RADIO HAMS

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AS A CONCESSION TO MARK THE OLYMPICS IN LOS ANGELES, LICENSED RADIO AMATEURS IN THE UNITED STATES AND HONG KONG MAY -- SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS -- EXCHANGE MESSAGES AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS WITH THIRD PARTIES BETWEEN NOW AND AUGUST 31, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID TODAY.

THIS FOLLOWS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS COVERING THE PERIOD JULY 1 TO AUGUST 31, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

NORMALLY, AMATEUR STATIONS ARE PERMITTED TO EXCHANGE MESSAGES WITH OTHER AMATEUR STATIONS WORLD-WIDE, ALTHOUGH THE LICENCE CONDITIONS REQUIRE THAT THE MESSAGES BE LIMITED TO TOPICS WHICH ARE THE DIRECT CONCERN OF ONE OF THE PARTIES.

+THE CONCESSION WILL ALLOW LICENSED HONG KONG AMATEUR RADIO STATIONS TO RELAY MESSAGES TO AND FROM FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF THOSE WHO ARE IN THE U.S. EITHER PARTICIPATING OR WATCHING THE GAMES DURING THIS PERIOD,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SET OUT THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THIS THIRD PARTY TRAFFIC MAY BE CARRIED OUT:

(I) NO PAYMENT OR COMPENSATION OF ANY FORM MAY BE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY MADE ON SUCH MESSAGES OR COMMUNICATIONS,

(II) SUCH COMMUNICATIONS SHALL BE MADE IN PLAIN LANGUAGE AND LIMITED TO CONVERSATIONS OR MESSAGES OF A TECHNICAL OR PERSONAL NATURE FOR WHICH, BY REASON OF THEIR UNIMPORTANCE, RECOURSE TO THE PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE IS NOT JUSTIFIED,

(III) THIS ARRANGEMENT SHALL BE APPLICABLE WITH RESPECT TO ALL AMATEUR RADIO STATIONS DULY LICENSED BY APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF U.S. OR HONG KONG.

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PLAY SAFE, SPORTS LOVERS TOLD

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PEOPLE WHO ENGAGE IN SPORTS AND ENJOY THE BENEFITS, SHOULD NOT FORGET THE NEED FOR SAFETY AS WELL.

THIS WAS THE MESSAGE SPELT OUT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY TO LAUNCH THIS YEAR'S SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS CAMPAIGN.

DR.S.F. LAM, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS +SOP+ ADVISED PEOPLE TO OBSERVE SAFETY RULES WHILE ENGAGING IN OUTDOOR SPORTS AND GAMES.

/+IN THE .....

+IN THE MIDST OF OUR ENJOYMENT, WE MUST NOT FORGET OUR OWN SAFETY, OR ELSE WHAT STARTS OUT TO BE A HEALTHY AND HAPPY VENTURE MAY END IN DISASTER,+ HE SAID.

WITH HIM AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS MR JOHN FORTUNE, CHAIRMAN OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUATIC SPORTS OF +SOP+. MR FORTUNE SPOKE ON WATER SPORTS SAFETY.

DR LAM SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN A RAPID GROWTH OF SPORTING ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST DECADE, AND MORE PEOPLE WERE BECOMING INTERESTED IN SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

+IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT TO GO HAND IN HAND WITH THE PROMOTION OF SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS SO THAT AS PEOPLE ARE INTRODUCED TO THE VARIOUS KINDS OF SPORTS AND RECREATION, THEY WILL ALSO BE EDUCATED AND REMINDED OF THE NECESSARY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS,+ HE SAID.

THE SOP COMMITTEE, UNDER THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, HAD BEEN GIVEN THE JOB OF PROMOTING SPORTS SAFETY.

THE COMMITTEE ORGANISES TWO MAJOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SAFETY PROJECTS EACH YEAR, ONE ON WATER SPORTS AND THE OTHER ON LAND SPORTS.

DR LAM SAID: +THE VITAL MESSAGE WE TRY TO PUT ACROSS IS: IF PEOPLE CAN JUST EXERCISE MORE COMMON SENSE AND CARE, A LOT OF ACCIDENTS AT SEA OR ON LAND CAN WELL BE AVOIDED.+

SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS WAS MAINLY AMATTER OF COMMON SENSE, GOOD PLANNING, THE USE OF CORRECT EQUIPMENT, AWARENESS OF THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT AND KNOWING ONE'S LIMITATIONS, HE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO TWO PUBLICITY EVENTS IN THE FORM OF WATER SPORTS PLAY SAFE DAY AND LAND SPORTS PLAY SAFE DAY, THE COMMITTEE IS PLANNING TO PRODUCE A TV API (ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST) ON RECREATIONAL CYCLING SAFETY AND A POSTER ON AQUATIC SPORTS SAFETY.

EDUCATIONAL FILMS ON LAND AND WATER SPORTS SAFETY COVERING CYCLING, CAMPING, HILLWALKING, SWIMMING, ROWING AND CANOEING HAVE ALSO BEEN PRODUCED AND ARE AVAILABLE FOR LOAN TO INTERESTED PARTIES.

COPIES OF A BOOKLET, ENTITLED +STEPPING OUT+, WHICH COVERS SAFETY HINTS ON A WIDE RANGE OF SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE SECRETARIAT, COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT.

SPEAKING ABOUT WATER SPORTS SAFETY, MR JOHN FORTUNE SAID THAT THE ACCIDENT RATE IN WATER ACTIVITIES HAD INCREASED OVER THE YEARS.

/THERE WERE .....

THERE WERE 1 610 ACCIDENTS INVOLVING SWIMMING LAST YEAR, 14 OF THEM FATAL, ACCORDING TO URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT STATISTICS.

MR FORTUNE HAD THE FOLLOWING ADVICE FOR SWIMMERS:

* LEARN TO SWIM PROPERLY

* USE COMMON SENSE

* SWIM WITH OTHERS

* LEARN BASIC LIFE SAVING

* STUDY THE SEA MOVEMENT BEFORE ENTERING

* EAT A LIGHT MEAL AN HOUR BEFORE SWIMMING

* LEAVE ALCOHOL AT HOME

* WHEN IN DANGER, SHOUT FOR HELP

* IF CAUGHT IN A STRONG CURRENT, SWIM ACROSS THE CURRENT AT AN ANGLE, DON'T SWIM AGAINST IT

* DO NOT PANIC.

SERVING AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 1984 WATER SPORTS SAFETY DAY, MR FORTUNE SAID THAT THE WATER SPORTS PLAY SAFE DAY WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (JULY 8) FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI EAST PROMENADE.

IT WILL BE OPENED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR PERCY DAVY.

THE EVENT IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE SOP COMMITTEE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF WATER SPORTS BODIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT TO DRIVE HOME THE +PLAY SAFE+ MESSAGE.

THERE WILL BE A SERIES OF SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS ON SUCH POPULAR SPORTS AS WINDSURFING, CANOEING, SAILING, LIFE SAVING AND WATER SKIING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE EVENT.

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JOB, PAYROLL SURVEY GOING ON

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS THIS MONTH CONDUCTING A SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY AMONG 140 000 ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE FIRMS ARE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS INCLUDING THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (MINING AND QUARRYING, MANUFACTURING, ELECTRICITY AND GAS) AND THE SERVICES SECTOR (TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION, FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES, COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES) WITH FULL ENUMERATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE SECTOR (WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, RESTAURANT AND HOTELS).

QUESTIONNAIRES WERE MAILED TO INDIVIDUAL SAMPLE FIRMS AT THE END OF JUNE, AND REMINDERS ARE NOW BEING SENT TO THOSE NOT RESPONDING TO THE INITIAL QUESTIONNAIRES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER 1982 (LEGAL NOTICE NO. 69 OF 1982, GAZETTED ON MARCH 5, 1982), ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVING QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

INFORMATION IS BEING SOUGHT ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES ON JUNE 29 FROM EACH ESTABLISHMENT. SOME 10 000 ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FROM THE SAMPLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAYROLL IN EACH OF THE THREE MONTHS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD OF APRIL - JUNE 1984.

RESPONDENTS WHO FIND DIFFICULTY IN COMPLETING THE FORMS SHOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR HELP AT THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 5-436551, 5-444301, 5-455661 AND 5-455668.

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THREE CROWN SITES FOR AUCTION THIS MONTH

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THREE PIECES OF CROWN LAND WILL BE AUCTIONED ON JULY 30, IN ADDITION TO THE SITE AT SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK WOULD BE FOR SALE.

TWO OF THE SITES ARE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, WHILE THE OTHER IS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FIRST ISLAND SITE, FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE, IS AT THE JUNCTION OF QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL AND POSSESSION STREET.

UNDER SALES CONDITIONS, THE DEVELOPER WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE AT LEAST 8 500 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1988.

/THE SITE .....

THE SITE AREA IS 1 176 SQUARE METRES.

THE SECOND SITE, AT KA YIP STREET, CHAI WAN, MEASURES 1 400 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND GODOWN PURPOSES.

THE BUILDING COVENANT ON THIS SITE IS COMPLETION OF 12 600 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA WITHIN 48 MONTHS.

THE REMAINING SITE, ALSO FOR INDUSTRIAL AND GODOWN USES, IS AT TUI MIN HOI, SAI KUNG.

IT HAS AN AREA OF 2 052 SQUARE METRES AND THE DEVELOPER MUST COMPLETE 4 924 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA WITHIN 36 MONTHS.

THE +MOST VALUABLE+ SITE AT TSIM SHA TSUI EAST IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HAS AN AREA OF 5 067 SQUARE METRES.

THE GOVERNMENT SAYS IT EXPECTS THE BIDDING TO BE COMPETITIVE FOR THIS LOT.

THE PURCHASER WILL HAVE THE OPTION TO BUY IT WITH MONETISED LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS (LETTERS A/B).

THE AUCTION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SHOUSON THEATRE OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE AT 2.30 PM.

PARTICULARS AND SALES CONDITIONS FOR ALL FOUR SITES ARE AVAILABLE AT :

* LANDS DEPARTMENT,MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;

* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES (KOWLOON EAST AND WEST), YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND

* THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN, TAI PO, NORTH, SAI KUNG, AND ISLANDS.

THE SALES PLANS CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE SAME PLACES.

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TEMPORARY MUSEUM TO BE BUILT

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A TEMPORARY MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS TO BE BUILT ON A 9 100-SQUARE-METRE SITE IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS TO CONSTRUCT THE MUSEUM, WHICH WILL BE LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF GRANVILLE ROAD AND SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD.

COMPRISING A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF 6 700 SQUARE METRES, THE SINGLE-STOREY BUILDING WITH A MEZZANINE FLOOR WILL INCLUDE EXHIBITION HALLS, A LECTURE THEATRE, WORKSHOPS, DEMONSTRATION ROOMS, OFFICES AND SERVICING AREAS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A PAVED EXTERNAL SERVICING AREA OF ABOUT 3 000 SQUARE METRES.

THE MUSEUM BUILDING, TO BE BUILT WITH REINFORCED CONCRETE WALLS AND A STEEL TRUSS ROOF, IS TO BE EITHER AIR-CONDITIONED OR MECHANICALLY VENTILATED.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN SEPTEMBER AND BE COMPLETED IN ONE YEAR.

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NEW ID CARD TIME FOR WOMEN 24-25

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WOMEN BORN IN 1959 AND 1960 WILL BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS AS FROM JULY 16, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

OVER 110 000 WOMEN WITHIN THESE TWO AGE GROUPS ARE EXPECTED TO TURN UP AT THE EIGHT NEW I.D. CARD ISSUE OFFICES, DURING THE FIVE WEEKS UP TO AUGUST 18.

THE OFFICES WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN 8 AM AND 9.30 PM FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY.

+BY MAKING USE OF THE MAIL-IN APPOINTMENT SERVICE, APPLICANTS MAY ARRANGE TO VISIT A PARTICULAR ISSUE OFFICE AT A SPECIFIED TIME BETWEEN 10 AM AND 5.30 PM ON ANY NORMAL WORKING DAY, EXCEPT MONDAYS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

+BUT THEIR APPLICATION FORMS MUST REACH THE OFFICE OF THEIR CHOICE 10 DAYS BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE PHASE,+ HE ADDED.

MEANWHILE, WOMEN BORN IN 1961 AND 1962 ARE REMINDED THAT THEY HAVE ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT TO APPLY FOR NEW I.D. CARDS, BY JULY 14.

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MOVING OFFICE

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THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS CO-ORDINATOR'S OFFICE OF THE JUDICIARY WILL MOVE FROM THE OLD SUPREME COURT AT JACKSON ROAD TO THE NEW ONE AT 38 QUEENSWAY THIS SUNDAY (JULY 8).

THE OFFICE WILL START OPERATION AT THE NEW ADDRESS FROM NEXT MONDAY (JULY 9). THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS CO-ORDINATOR, MRS MUSE LAM'S TELEPHONE NUMBER WILL CHANGE FROM 5-257863 TO 5-8214661.

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30-STOREY COMPLEX FOR WAN CHAI

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GOVERNMENT IS TO BUILD A 30-STOREY COURTS AND OFFICES COMPLEX AT HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE 30-STOREY TOWER BLOCK, OCCUPYING A SITE OF 3 816 SQUARE METRES, WILL BE PART OF THE HARBOUR ROAD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME.

THE 28 DISTRICT AND MAGISTRATES' COURTS WILL OCCUPY 30 000 SQUARE METRES OF SPACE ON THE LOWER FLOORS OF THE BLOCK.

THE REMAINING FLOORS, WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 27 000 SQUARE METRES, WILL BE FOR USE AS GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

WORK ON BUILDING THE COMPLEX IS EXPECTED TO START IN SEPTEMBER AND BE COMPLETED IN THREE PHASES BETWEEN MARCH AND SEPTEMBER, 1986.

THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS TO BE SUBMITTED BY AUGUST 17.

THE HARBOUR ROAD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME COVERS A 20 000-SQUARE-METRE SITE.

IT IS BOUNDED BY HARBOUR ROAD TO THE NORTH, NEW MERCURY HOUSE TO THE WEST, GLOUCESTER ROAD TO THE SOUTH AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS TO THE EAST.

MORE GOVERNMENT PROJECTS ARE BEING PLANNED IN THE AREA.

THE COST OF THE DEVELOPMENT AT CURRENT PRICES IS ESTIMATED AT $1.5 BILLION.

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SHARE DISCLOSURES

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON TAKEOVERS AND MERGERS UNDER RULE 29 OF THE HONG KONG CODE ON TAKEOVERS AND MERGERS ADVISES THAT, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT OFFER BY FIRST PACIFIC HOLDINGS LIMITED TO ACQUIRE THE ISSUED SHARE CAPITAL OF FIRST PACIFIC FINANCE LIMITED THAT THE FOLLOWING DISCLOSURES HAVE BEEN MADE TO HIM:

(1) FIRST PACIFIC H.K. SECURITIES LTD PURCHASED ON 3RD JULY 1984 26 000 SHARES IN FIRST PACIFIC HOLDINGS LTD AT $2.70 PER SHARE.

(2) MR MANUEL V. PANGILINAN PURCHASED ON 4TH JULY 1984 2 000 SHARES IN FIRST PACIFIC HOLDINGS LTD AT $2.75 PER SHARE.

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TEMPORARY FERRY TERMINAL PLANNED

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PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE FOR THE OPENING OF A TEMPORARY FERRY TERMINAL IN SHA TIN WHICH WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE BEACH RESORT OF DA MEISHA AND XIAO MEISHA ON THE NORTHERN SHORE OF MIRS BAY.

THE HK AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OPERATING THIS ROUTE, ALTHOUGH IT HAS YET TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION.

THE TEMPORARY FERRY TERMINAL WILL BE READY FOR USE LATER THIS MONTH OR EARLY IN AUGUST AND WILL SERVE THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC UNTIL AT LEAST 1988 WHEN THE PERMANENT PIER AT MA LIU SHUI IS COMPLETED.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (HONG KONG - CHINA AND MACAU FERRY TERMINALS) REGULATIONS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY TO ADD THIS PIER TO THE SCHEDULE OF TERMINALS WHERE VESSELS CAN BE CHARGED BERTHING FEES FOR USING THE TERMINAL FACILITIES.

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SEMINARS ON WIREFREE INDUCTION LOOP SYSTEM

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FOUR SEMINARS ON THE USE OF THE WIREFREE INDUCTION LOOP SYSTEM FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WILL BE HELD NEXT MONTH.

ORGANISED BY THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE TWO-HOUR SEMINARS WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 1, 2, 30 AND 31 AT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE AT 9A BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG.

THEY WILL CONSIST OF SHORT TALKS ON THE DIFFERENT MODES OF UTILISING THE LOOP SYSTEM TO PROMOTE PUPILS' LISTENING SKILLS, MAINTENANCE OF THE EQUIPMENT AND ADMINISTERING A TAPED PROGRAMME IN AN ENGLISH LESSON.

THERE WILL BE PLACES FOR 40 TEACHERS AT EACH SEMINAR AND APPLICATIONS WILL BE TREATED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

HEADS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHO WISH TO NOMINATE THEIR TEACHERS TO ATTEND THE SEMINARS SHOULD APPLY TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE, NOT LATER THAN JULY 12.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SEMINARS MAY BE MADE TO THE CENTRE ON 5-482537.

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SPORTS GROUP GETS DB SUPPORT

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THE DISTRICT BOARDS WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES TO HELP BUILD A HEALTHY COMMUNITY, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR ALBERT LAM SAID THIS EVENING.

SPEAKING AT THE JOINT INAUGURATION OF THE EIGHTH TERM OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE KWUN TONG SPORTS PROMOTION ASSOCIATION AND ITS 12 AREA BRANCHES, HE SAID THAT $160 000 HAD BEEN ALLOCATED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR.

+I AM SURE THE ASSOCIATION CAN ACHIEVE ITS AIM OF PROMOTING SPORTS ACTIVITIES MORE EXTENSIVELY AND INTENSIVELY THROUGH THE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF THE BOARD AND LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS,+ HE SAID.

+SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THE ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN ORGANISING CLASSES TO TRAIN UP POTENTIAL SPORTSMEN AND PROMOTE RESIDENTS' INTEREST IN SPORTS ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS OPEN COMPETITIONS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL ATHLETES TO LEARN FROM OTHERS.+

THIS YEAR, THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS AREA BRANCHES HAVE PLANNED TO ORGANISE 47 SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE LOCAL RESIDENTS.

/THE ACTIVITIES .....

THE ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE A SWIMMING GALA, AN ATHLETIC MEET, CAMPINGS FOR YOUTHS AND WORKING PEOPLE, TRAINING COURSES ON CANOE, ROLLER-SKATING AND FOOTBALL, AND COMPETITIONS.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE ASSOCIATION'S CHAIRMAN, MR LAM HANG-FAI, DISCLOSED THAT THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH HAD AGREED TO GRANT A 900-SQUARE-METRE SITE IN YAN OI COURT, ON A SHORT-TENANCY BASIS, TO THE ASSOCIATION TO SET UP ITS OWN OFFICE PREMISES.

+AS THE SITE IS CENTRALLY LOCATED IN KWUN TONG TOWN CENTRE, THE NEW OFFICE WILL SURELY PROVIDE A BETTER BASE FOR US TO CO-ORDINATE AND PROMOTE ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID.

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MORE TREES TO BEAUTIFY SAI KUNG

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SAI KUNG RESIDENTS WERE URGED TODAY TO TRY THEIR BEST TO MAKE THE ENVIRONMENT +BEAUTIFUL AND ENJOYABLE+.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEI FA WORKING GROUP OF CLEAN HONG KONG NEW TERRITORIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MR WAN HON-CHEUNG AT A TREE PLANTING CEREMONY AT THE TAI AU MUN PUBLIC CAR PARK IN CLEARWATER BAY ROAD.

THE SAI KUNG TREE PLANTING DAY WAS ORGANISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT MEI FA (BEAUTIFICATION) PHASE OF THE CLEAN HONG KONG DRIVE.

MR WAN SAID THAT THOUGH TREE PLANTING SEEMED TO BE A SIMPLE ACTION, OR EVEN A ROUTINE MATTER, IT, IN FACT, HAD A LASTING EFFECT.

TREE PLANTING WAS ONE OF THE MANY OBJECTIVES OF THE CLEAN HONG KONG DRIVE.

+TODAY EACH ONE OF US PLANTS A TREE; TOMORROW WE WILL HAVE TOGETHER A LARGER AREA UNDER THE SHADE OF TREES, IN WHICH PEOPLE MAY ENJOY THE BREEZE WHEN THE WEATHER GETS WARM,+ MR WAN SAID.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THOSE TAKING PART IN PLANTING TREES TODAY, FOR THEIR CONCERN AND SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT IN SAI KU NG.

LATER, MR WAN, ACCOMPANIED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER OF SAI KUNG, MR CHAN SUI-JEUNG, AND THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER OF SAI KUNG, MR CHIN YIU-CHEUNG, PLANTED A YOUNG TREE TO HIGHLIGHT THE EVENT.

SOME 100 COMMUNITY LEADERS AND STUDENTS, ALSO HELPED NTSD STAFF IN PLANTING 50 YOUNG EVERGREENS AT THE PUBLIC CARPARK.

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CAS TO HOLD FOOTDRILL CONTEST

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THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL INTER-UNIT FOOTDRILL COMPETITION ON SUNDAY (JULY 8) AT THE CAS KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE IN ARGYLE STREET, STARTING AT 8.30 AM.

+THE COMPETITION IS INTENDED TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD IN TURNOUT AND SENSE OF DISCIPLINE AMONG CAS MEMBERS,+ A CAS SPOKESMAN SAID.

SEVENTEEN TEAMS WILL COMPETE IN THE EVENT, AND THE WINNER WILL BE AWARDED THE +KAN YUET-KEUNG CHALLENGE CUP+.

MR LEE HOK-SEE, CAS TACTICAL FORCE COMMANDER, WILL PRESENT THE TROPHY AT 12.50 PM.

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ORIENTATION FOR VOLUNTEERS

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AN ORIENTATION COURSE WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (JULY 8) FOR SOME 70 VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE JOINED THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S 1984/85 VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS.

THE SCHEME IS AIMED AT PROMOTING GREATER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS.

A PSYCHOLOGIST, MRS EYELINA BARTON, WHO IS VERY INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER WORK, HAS BEEN INVITED TO DELIVER A TALK ON +PERSONALITY STRUCTURE+.

TWO SWD OFFICERS WILL SPEAK ON THE WORK OF PROBATION OFFICERS AND RESIDENTIAL WORK FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS. THEY ARE MRS BEATRICE LEE, PROBATION OFFICER, AND MR HO WING-FAT, SUPERINTENDENT OF A BOY'S HOME.

THE REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (EAST KOWLOON), MR KWOK KA-CHI, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE SESSION.

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WATER LEAKAGE TESTS

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE STOPPED FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (JULY 9), TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY LOCKHART ROAD, CANAL ROAD EAST, HENNESSY ROAD AND EAST POINT ROAD.

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