



Received by P.O.
on 25 MAR 1993

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1993

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EXTENDED TRANSPORT CONCESSIONS TO DISABLED DRIVERS

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THE SCOPE OF TRANSPORT-RELATED CONCESSIONS TO DISABLED DRIVERS WILL BE EXTENDED FROM APRIL 1.

ANNOUNCING THE EXTENSION OF THE SCHEME TODAY (TUESDAY), ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR ERNEST LEE, SAID THE SCHEME WOULD BE EXTENDED TO COVER DISABLED MOTOR CYCLISTS AND MOTOR TRICYCLISTS.

"IN ADDITION, ALL DISABLED DRIVERS WILL BE EXEMPTED FROM PAYING TOLLS WHEN USING GOVERNMENT TUNNELS," HE ADDED.

THE NEW MEASURES UNDER THE EXTENDED SCHEME WERE ANNOUNCED IN THE 1993/94 BUDGET DELIVERED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ON MARCH 3.

UNDER THE EXISTING SCHEME, DISABLED DRIVERS ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN TRANSPORT-RELATED FEES AND DUTIES CHARGED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THESE INCLUDE LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCE FEE, FULL DRIVING LICENCE FEE, DRIVING TEST FEE, FIRST REGISTRATION TAX ON PRIVATE CAR WITH A TAXABLE VALUE NOT EXCEEDING \$60,000, VEHICLE LICENCE FEE, TRANSFER FEE ON SECOND-HAND CARS, PARKING METER CHARGES, DUTY ON HYDROCARBON OIL WITH A LIMIT OF 200 LITRES PER MONTH AND PASSAGE TAX OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

MR LEE POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE EXTENDED SCHEME, DISABLED DRIVERS OF MOTOR CYCLES AND MOTOR TRICYCLES WOULD ALSO ENJOY THESE EXEMPTIONS WITH SLIGHT ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FIRST REGISTRATION TAX, VEHICLE LICENCE FEE AND DUTY ON HYDROCARBON OIL.

THE FIRST REGISTRATION TAX OF A SELF-DRIVEN MOTOR CYCLE OR MOTOR TRICYCLE OWNED BY A DISABLED PERSON WILL BE WAIVED, REGARDLESS OF THE TAXABLE VALUE.

THE VEHICLE LICENCE FEE PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF ANY MOTOR CYCLE OR MOTOR TRICYCLE IS THE SAME REGARDLESS OF ITS ENGINE CYLINDER CAPACITY. HENCE THERE IS NO NEED TO DRAW REFERENCE TO ENGINE CYLINDER CAPACITY AS IN THE CASE OF PRIVATE CARS.

AS REGARDS DUTY ON HYDROCARBON OIL, THE EXEMPTION WILL BE SUBJECT TO A LIMIT OF 100 LITRES PER MONTH IN RESPECT OF EACH DISABLED MOTOR CYCLIST OR MOTOR TRICYCLIST.

MR LEE ADDED THAT ALSO FROM APRIL 1, ALL DISABLED DRIVERS WOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM PAYING TOLLS WHEN USING GOVERNMENT TUNNELS.

UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENT, UP TO 70 TICKETS PER MONTH WOULD BE ISSUED FREE OF CHARGE, UPON APPLICATION, TO A DISABLED DRIVER WHO SHOULD PRODUCE THE TICKETS TO THE TOLLS COLLECTOR WHEN USING GOVERNMENT TUNNELS. THE TICKETS ARE UNIQUELY DESIGNED FOR EXCLUSIVE USE BY DISABLED DRIVERS ONLY.

/THE TICKETS

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THE TICKETS WILL CONTAIN THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE DISABLED DRIVER'S VEHICLE AND ARE NON-TRANSFERABLE. THEY ARE VALID FOR ALL GOVERNMENT TUNNELS.

"DISABLED DRIVERS WHO NEED THESE TUNNEL TICKETS MAY SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE LICENSING OFFICES OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT FROM NOW," MR LEE SAID.

THERE ARE CURRENTLY ABOUT 680 DISABLED DRIVERS WHO ARE ALSO REGISTERED OWNERS OF A PRIVATE VEHICLE.

IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PROVIDE THEM WITH SPECIAL TRANSPORT SERVICES AND EXEMPTIONS FROM PAYMENT OF TRANSPORT-RELATED FEES AND DUTIES ON SELF-DRIVEN VEHICLES TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

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GOVT NOT BACKING DOWN ON SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING
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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ABOUT A MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON AND THREE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF THE GOVERNMENT SHIRKING ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTED HOUSING TO THE SANDWICH CLASS.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION AT THE MEETING AS TO WHETHER MORE LAND WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME IF HOUSING AUTHORITY RAISED ITS INCOME CEILING TO ENLARGE THE COVERAGE, MR EASON SAID IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE GOVERNMENT POLICY TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT LAND TO MEET THE TARGET OF LONG-TERM ASSISTED HOUSING SCHEMES.

SUCH TARGET WAS NOT STATIC AND WAS SUBJECT TO REGULAR REVIEW.

MR EASON ALSO EMPHASISED IN HIS REPLY THAT THE LAND TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING WOULD BE ADDITIONAL TO NORMAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE EXISTING ASSISTED HOUSING SCHEMES, SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT BY THE LAND COMMISSION.

THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING SCHEME IS REFLECTED IN THE BUDGET PROPOSAL TO ALLOCATE \$2 BILLION FOR THE FAST-START SCHEME AND IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF SITES FOR THE LONG-TERM SCHEME TO BUILD AND SELL FLATS TO THE MIDDLE-INCOME PEOPLE.

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VOLUNTARY DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMMES TO FORGE CLOSER LINKS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO STRENGTHEN THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE METHADONE TREATMENT PROGRAMME AND THE IN-PATIENT PROGRAMMES OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS (SARDA) FROM NEXT MONTH.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR ALASDAIR SINCLAIR, AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF ROTARY CLUB OF PENINSULA TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE SAID AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES WAS CONDUCTED LAST YEAR IN CONSULTATION WITH AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.

MR SINCLAIR SAID ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REVIEW WAS THAT SARDA SHOULD TAKE OVER FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AS THE PROVIDER OF SOCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICES AT METHADONE CLINICS.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS WOULD BE TO FACILITATE REFERRAL OF PATIENTS BETWEEN THE TWO PROGRAMMES.

SOCIAL WORKERS FROM SARDA, WITH THE SUPPORT OF PEER COUNSELLORS, WOULD ADOPT A PRO-ACTIVE APPROACH TO IDENTIFY AND REFER THE BETTER-MOTIVATED METHADONE PATIENT TO SARDA'S TREATMENT CENTRES FOR DETOXIFICATION.

THEY WOULD ALSO REFER DROPOUTS FROM THE SARDA IN-PATIENT PROGRAMMES TO THE METHADONE PROGRAMME FOR MAINTENANCE TREATMENT.

"WE HOPE THAT THIS CHANGE WILL ENCOURAGE MORE DRUG ABUSERS TO RECEIVE APPROPRIATE FORMS OF TREATMENT," HE ADDED.

TOUCHING ON THE DRUG SITUATION, MR SINCLAIR POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPORTION OF YOUNG DRUG ABUSERS AMONG THOSE NEWLY REPORTED HAD BEEN ON THE INCREASE.

IN 1982, YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 21 ACCOUNTED FOR 27.3 PER CENT OF NEWLY REPORTED DRUG ABUSERS; TEN YEARS LATER, IN 1992, THAT PROPORTION HAD INCREASED TO 47.7 PER CENT.

IN 1992, 1,386 YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 21 WERE REPORTED FOR THE FIRST TIME AS HAVING ABUSED DRUGS, WHILE IN 1991 THE CORRESPONDING FIGURE WAS 1,030. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 34.6 PER CENT IN ONE YEAR.

ON PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY, MR SINCLAIR SAID A CO-ORDINATED AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME, WITH THE MAXIMUM OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, FORMED AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE DEMAND-REDUCTION EFFORTS.

THE PRIMARY AIM WAS TO PUBLICISE THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE AND PROMOTE THE ADVANTAGES OF A DRUG-FREE LIFESTYLE.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE REMINDED OF THE DANGERS OF EXPERIMENTING WITH DRUGS, WHICH CAN LEAD TO DEPENDENCY, DEGRADATION AND DEATH.

TURNING TO TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, HE SAID THERE WERE THREE MAJOR PUBLICLY-FUNDED PROGRAMMES IN HONG KONG: A COMPULSORY PLACEMENT PROGRAMME, OPERATED BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FOR CONVICTED CRIMINALS WHO WERE ALSO DRUG ADDICTS; A VOLUNTARY OUT-PATIENT METHADONE PROGRAMME, PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; AND A VOLUNTARY IN-PATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAMME RUN BY THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS.

"IN ADDITION, A COUNSELLING CENTRE, KNOWN AS PS 33, HAS BEEN SET UP BY THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE TO PROVIDE A SERVICE FOR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCE ABUSERS," HE ADDED.

MR SINCLAIR STRESSED THAT HONG KONG'S FIGHT AGAINST DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE WAS NOT ONE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT COULD WIN SINGLE-HANDEDLY.

"WE NEED THE SUPPORT OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. THE BATTLE AGAINST DRUGS IS NEVER-ENDING AND REQUIRES CONSTANT EFFORT," HE SAID.

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PYRKE APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF MARINE

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT MR A C PYRKE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE, HAD BEEN APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR PYRKE, AGED 59, JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE AS A SURVEYOR OF SHIPS IN 1968.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO SURVEYOR-GENERAL OF SHIPS IN 1984 (WHICH WAS RETITLED AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE IN 1987) AND TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE IN 1990.

MR PYRKE HAS ACTED AS DIRECTOR ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS.

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FIRE SERVICES TO RECRUIT WOMEN OFFICERS NEXT MONTH

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL START RECRUITING FEMALE STATION OFFICERS TO PERFORM OPERATIONAL DUTIES FROM APRIL 1, THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (HEADQUARTERS), MR TSANG KWONG-YU, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SECOND RECRUITING CENTRE, MR TSANG DESCRIBED THE NEW ARRANGEMENT AS A "BREAKTHROUGH" IN THE DEPARTMENT'S 125-YEAR-OLD HISTORY.

"THE REASONS FOR ALLOWING FEMALES TO UNDERTAKE FIRE-FIGHTING AND RESCUE WORK ARE TO GIVE THEM AN 'EQUAL' CHANCE FOR THE JOB AND TO HELP ALLEVIATE OUR RECRUITMENT DIFFICULTY," HE EXPLAINED.

HE ASSURED THE PUBLIC THAT THE NEW MEASURE WOULD NOT AFFECT THE QUALITY OF SERVICE BECAUSE FEMALE OFFICERS HAD TO MEET THE ACADEMIC AND PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS SIMILAR TO THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS, INCLUDING A 26-WEEK INITIAL TRAINING AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED AT ALL FIRE STATIONS, FIRE SERVICES RECRUITING CENTRES AND ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

MR TSANG POINTED OUT THAT THE FIRE SERVICES HAD BEEN EXPANDING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CONTINUOUS INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND GROWING NUMBER OF HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS.

"THOUGH THE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO PUBLICISE THE RECRUITMENT MESSAGE THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA, WE STILL CANNOT RECRUIT SUFFICIENT QUALIFIED OFFICERS," HE SAID.

"THIS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE STRINGENT REQUIREMENT THAT CANDIDATES SHOULD HAVE GOOD EYESIGHT WITHOUT WEARING SPECTACLES," HE ADDED.

THE NEW RECRUITING CENTRE IS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED ON THE MEZZANINE FLOOR OF MIDDLE ROAD MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING IN THE BUSY TSIM SHA TSUI AREA.

ITS OPENING HOURS ARE: 10 AM TO 6 PM FROM MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS, AND 9 AM TO 5 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. IT WILL BE CLOSED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

MR TSANG SAID THE NEW CENTRE WOULD PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL AVENUE FOR PEOPLE WISHING TO JOIN THE SERVICE.

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GOVT AIMS TO IMPROVE SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, TODAY (TUESDAY) GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE BOTH THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON OF THE DEPARTMENT, HE SAID IT WAS ENCOURAGING THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH, HAD PROPOSED TO ALLOCATE \$7.63 BILLION, INCLUDING \$224 MILLION FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND, FOR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

MR STRACHAN NOTED THAT THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS ON THE WELFARE FRONT WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME ON JULY 1.

HE SAID THE SCHEME WAS DEvised TO HELP THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY TO MEET THE BASIC NEEDS OF THEIR EVERYDAY LIFE.

"THE UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY OF THIS NON-CONTRIBUTORY SCHEME IS THAT THE GREATER THE NEED, THE GREATER WILL BE THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

HE STRESSED AGAIN THAT ONLY ONE PER CENT OF ALL RECIPIENTS UNDER THE NEW SCHEME WOULD BE GETTING THE STANDARD RATE WITHOUT ANY EXTRA PAYMENT.

"THIS REPRESENTS ABOUT 1,000 PEOPLE OUT OF A TOTAL OF 100,000 WHO WILL BENEFIT UNDER THE NEW SCHEME.

"THEY ARE MAINLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE LESS NEEDS SUCH AS THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE TO PAY RENTS.

"IT IS THEREFORE NOT MEANINGFUL TO CONCENTRATE ON THE LEVEL OF ALLOWANCE FOR THIS SMALL GROUP," HE SAID.

MR STRACHAN SAID THE AVERAGE MONTHLY ASSISTANCE FOR A SINGLE PERSON UNDER THE NEW SCHEME WOULD BE \$2,000 A MONTH, AN INCREASE OF 19 PER CENT.

"THIS INCLUDES A STANDARD RATE PLUS A COMBINATION OF OTHER ALLOWANCES SUCH AS RENT ALLOWANCE, SCHOOL-RELATED ALLOWANCE, TRAVELLING EXPENSES ALLOWANCE AND EXTRA DIET ALLOWANCE.

"THIS \$2,000 A MONTH ALLOWANCE IS THE AVERAGE FOR A SINGLE PERSON, ABOUT 37 PER CENT OF THIS GROUP WILL BE GETTING BETWEEN \$2,000 AND \$3,000 A MONTH, WHILE ABOUT FIVE PER CENT WILL BE GETTING MORE THAN \$3,000 A MONTH," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE SAME ARRANGEMENTS OF PAYMENT APPLIED TO FAMILY CASES UNDER THE NEW SCHEME.

"THE AVERAGE PAYMENT FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR WILL BE \$5,880 A MONTH, AN INCREASE OF 22 PER CENT.

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"OF THIS GROUP, ABOUT 35 PER CENT WILL BE GETTING BETWEEN \$6,000 AND \$8,000 A MONTH, WHILE ABOUT TWO PER CENT WILL GET MORE THAN \$8,000 A MONTH," HE SAID.

MR STRACHAN SAID IN GENERAL THE MONTHLY PAYMENT RECEIVED BY ALL CLIENTS WOULD BE IMPROVED IN REAL TERMS BY BETWEEN FOUR PER CENT AND 37 PER CENT.

"THIS WOULD BE OVER AND ABOVE THE REGULAR ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION," HE STRESSED.

"REHABILITATION SERVICES, COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AS WELL AS FAMILY AND CHILD CARE WILL ALSO BENEFIT SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THE PROVISION UNDER THE BUDGET," HE ADDED.

"INDEED THE DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVITIES RANGE OVER A WIDE FIELD AND TOUCH ON MANY SPECIALISED AREAS. WE ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE 25 BOARDS AND COMMITTEES TO HELP US IN THIS COMPLEX TASK.

"THE HARD WORK AND CONTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS OF ADVISORY BOARDS MUST NOT GO UNNOTICED," MR STRACHAN ADDED.

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50 VEHICLE MARKS UP FOR AUCTION

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS ON SATURDAY (MARCH 27) AT 9.30 AM AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

A TOTAL OF 50 VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

FC1966	FD366	FC911	FC2688	FC9285
FC162	FC280	FB328	FB9939	FD8697
*491	*FH800	*AT22	*DD2	*FG345
FC229	AR1638	FA138	FC126	FC615
FB1668	FB268	FC288	FD680	DY7477
CH1108	FC388	FC1688	HK1171	FC6988
FC9899	FD711	AJ821	FC310	FC7787
*DD4004	*FF828	*FH3000	*7262	*FJ3223
FD119	FC1988	FA316	FC906	FC3122
FC2728	FD983	FB628	FD704	FC1687

* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

/THE CERTIFICATE

THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MUST BE PRODUCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AUCTION IF THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK IS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF BODY CORPORATE.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION, AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES, WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 191ST ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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APPLICATIONS TO SPONSOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY INVITED
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THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH TODAY (TUESDAY) INVITED ORGANISATIONS WISHING TO SPONSOR THE 1994 LUNAR NEW YEAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY TO SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE MAY 10.

SINCE 1982, FIREWORKS DISPLAYS HAVE BEEN HELD OVER THE VICTORIA HARBOUR IN THE EVENING OF THE SECOND DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR AS THE FOCAL POINT TO CELEBRATE THE SPRING FESTIVAL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID APPLICATIONS SHOULD REACH THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE AT LEAST NINE MONTHS BEFORE THE DATE PROPOSED FOR THE DISPLAY.

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, 41ST FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 594 5659 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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POSSESSING ENDANGERED SPECIES WITHOUT LICENCE AN OFFENCE
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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED THAT POSSESSING ENDANGERED SPECIES WITHOUT VALID LICENCES ISSUED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) COULD MAKE THE OFFENDER LIABLE TO HEAVY PENALTY UPON CONVICTION.

THE REMINDER WAS ISSUED BY AFD'S SENIOR CONSERVATION OFFICER, MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG, AFTER A 42-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS FINED \$15,000 BY A FANLING MAGISTRATE LAST WEEK FOR KEEPING 10 MONKEYS IN YUEN LONG.

MR CHEUNG SAID: "ALL KINDS OF MONKEYS ARE ENDANGERED ANIMAL SPECIES PROTECTED UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE IN HONG KONG."

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UNDER THE ORDINANCE, ANYONE FOUND GUILTY OF ILLEGALLY IMPORTING, EXPORTING OR POSSESSING THESE ANIMALS WILL BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000 AND IN CASE OF A REPEATED OFFENCE A FINE OF \$50,000 PLUS SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

MR CHEUNG ALSO CALLED ON LOCAL RESIDENTS NOT TO BRING IN OR OUT OF HONG KONG ANY ENDANGERED SPECIES DURING THE FORTHCOMING CHING MING AND EASTER HOLIDAYS UNLESS ALL IMPORT AND EXPORT REQUIREMENTS ARE COMPLIED WITH.

CURRENTLY, OVER 9,000 SPECIES OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS, WHETHER ALIVE, DEAD, STUFFED SPECIMEN, PARTS OR DERIVATIVES ARE LISTED UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

THE YUEN LONG CASE WAS UNCOVERED IN LATE SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR. AFD OFFICERS, INFORMED BY THE POLICE, SEIZED 10 MONKEYS KEPT INSIDE A BIG STEEL CAGE AT A CONTAINER YARD AT PING SHAN, YUEN LONG.

SUMMONSES WERE LATER ISSUED TO THE OFFENDER WHO ADMITTED POSSESSING THE ENDANGERED ANIMALS WITHOUT LICENCES.

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TWO-DAY MEETING TO DEBATE BUDGET

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FIFTY-FIVE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL SPEAK ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1993 DURING ITS RESUMED DEBATE AT THE COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AND ON THURSDAY.

THEY WILL ALSO ASK A TOTAL OF 20 QUESTIONS TOMORROW.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY TELEPHONING 869 9492.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	23 MAR 93	23 MAR 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q312	Y387
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$2,090 MN	HK\$1,030 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$1,000 MN	HK\$200 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	2.95 PCT	3.48 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	2.96 PCT	3.50 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 47 PCT	ABOUT 66 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	2.96 PCT	3.54 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 29 MARCH 1993 -

TENDER DATE	30 MAR 93	30 MAR 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q313	H361
ISSUE DATE	31 MAR 93	31 MAR 93
MATURITY DATE	30 JUNE 93	29 SEPT 93
TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HK\$1,000+200 MN	HK\$400+80 MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,650
REVERSAL OF LAF	+500
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-295
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,855
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.5 *-0.1* 23.3.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.67 PCT	14 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.27	3.50
1 MONTH	2.84 PCT	17 MONTHS	2408	5.50	101.14	3.57
3 MONTHS	2.93 PCT	20 MONTHS	2411	4.375	101.44	3.75
6 MONTHS	3.14 PCT	23 MONTHS	2502	4.625	101.47	3.98
12 MONTHS	3.46 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 5,179MN

CLOSED 23 MARCH 1993

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