



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR'S TAX POSITION

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RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON THE GOVERNOR'S TAX POSITION, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY):

"THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 3 THAT ONCE THE MEMORANDUM ON THE QUEEN'S TAX POSITION BECOMES AVAILABLE, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER WHETHER THERE ARE ANY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S TAX POSITION UNDER HONG KONG LAW. WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE MEMORANDUM ON THE QUEEN'S TAX POSITION BUT WE HOPE TO HAVE IT SOON."

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GOVT ANNOUNCES THREE SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) A NUMBER OF SENIOR POSTINGS AND APPOINTMENTS WITH THE IMPENDING RETIREMENTS OF THREE OFFICERS.

IN THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON), MR PAUL WONG KAM-CHIU, WILL BE RETIRING IN LATE MARCH.

HE WILL BE REPLACED BY MISS CHRISTINE CHOW KWAN-TAI, THE PRESENT DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER.

IN THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, MR JOHN SHEPPARD, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, WILL BE RETIRING IN LATE APRIL. HE WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MR EDDIE HUI KI-ON, CURRENTLY SENIOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER.

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, MR CLIVE OXLEY, WILL RETIRE IN AUTUMN THIS YEAR. HE WILL BE REPLACED BY MR DON WATSON, SENIOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THESE OFFICERS:

MR PAUL WONG KAM-CHIU, JP

AGED 56, MR WONG JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE IN 1960. HE HAS SERVED FOR THE MAJORITY OF HIS CAREER IN THE FORMER COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, WHERE HE BECAME AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER IN JULY 1974.

HE TRANSFERRED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN JULY 1982 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN JANUARY 1991.

MR WONG WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY FROM 1982 TO 1985, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE FROM 1985 TO 1986, DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL FROM 1986 TO 1989 AND WAS SECONDED TO THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION AS COMMISSIONER BETWEEN 1989 AND 1991.

HE WAS APPOINTED REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON) IN THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IN OCTOBER 1991.

/MISS CHRISTINE

MISS CHRISTINE CHOW KWAN-TAI, JP

MISS CHOW, AGED 48, FIRST JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE IN 1966 AS AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER II. SHE ROSE TO HER PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN JANUARY 1992.

DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF HER CAREER, MISS CHOW SERVED IN THE ECONOMICS, SOCIAL SERVICES AND SECURITY BRANCHES, THE THEN HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND FINANCE BRANCH.

FROM 1986 TO 1989, MISS CHOW SERVED IN THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE THEN LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH.

SHE TOOK UP HER PRESENT APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER IN SEPTEMBER 1989.

MR C A J SHEPPARD, OBE, QPM, JP

MR SHEPPARD, AGED 58, JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE AS A SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE IN JANUARY 1976 AFTER SERVING THE BOTSWANA POLICE FOR SOME 20 YEARS.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE IN SEPTEMBER 1982, SENIOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER IN MARCH 1988, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER IN DECEMBER 1989 AND HAS BEEN DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, OPERATIONS SINCE THEN.

MR SHEPPARD WAS AWARDED THE COLONIAL POLICE MEDAL IN 1981 AND THE QUEEN'S POLICE MEDAL IN 1989.

HE WAS ALSO MADE A MEMBER OF THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN 1975 AND AN OFFICER OF THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN 1992.

MR HUI KI-ON, QPM, CPM

AGED 49, MR HUI JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE AS A PROBATIONARY INSPECTOR IN FEBRUARY 1963.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE IN APRIL 1984 AND SENIOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER IN DECEMBER 1989. SINCE DECEMBER 1, 1989 HE HAS BEEN THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS.

MR HUI WAS AWARDED THE COLONIAL POLICE MEDAL IN 1979 AND THE QUEEN'S POLICE MEDAL IN 1989.

MR C W B OXLEY, OBE, ED, JP

AGED 56, MR OXLEY JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN 1969. HE WAS APPOINTED AS COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE IN 1990 AND PROMOTED TO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE A IN 1992.

ON HIS RETIREMENT, MR OXLEY WILL HAVE COMPLETED 24 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

MR D M WATSON, QPM, CPM

MR WATSON, AGED 52, JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE AS A PROBATIONARY SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE IN 1960.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE IN 1983 AND TO SENIOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER IN 1988.

SINCE 1987, HE HAS HELD THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL BRANCH.

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NEW ICAC COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT MR B E D DE SPEVILLE WILL SUCCEED THE LATE MR PETER ALLAN AS COMMISSIONER OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION.

MR DE SPEVILLE WILL ASSUME THE COMMISSIONERSHIP ON FEBRUARY 22, 1993.

AGED 51, MR DE SPEVILLE WAS ADMITTED TO THE MIDDLE TEMPLE IN 1964 AND WAS CALLED TO THE BAR IN 1967.

HE JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE AS A DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL IN 1981, SERVING INITIALLY IN THE LAW DRAFTING DIVISION AND LATER MOVING ON TO BECOME SECRETARY OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL IN 1985 AND TO LAW OFFICER IN 1992.

SINCE 1991, MR DE SPEVILLE HAS BEEN THE SOLICITOR GENERAL OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

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EXCO AGREES TO SUBSCRIPTION TV LICENCE

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT A SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION LICENCE SHOULD BE AWARDED TO WHARF CABLE LIMITED.

THIS WILL BE SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION WITH THE CHINESE SIDE AND THE ENACTMENT OF THE TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993.

THE TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JANUARY 13, 1993 AND A BILLS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP TO EXAMINE THE BILL.

A COPY OF THE LICENCE HAS BEEN HANDED OVER TO THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

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DELEGATION OF AUTHORITIES THEME FURTHER PURSUED

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THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH (CSB) IS REVIEWING ITS ROLE WITHIN THE OVERALL FRAMEWORK OF PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM WITH AN AIM TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM WHICH WILL RELEASE THE ENERGY AND CREATIVITY AMONG CIVIL SERVANTS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID.

IT WILL ALSO ENTRUST IN CIVIL SERVANTS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MANAGE AND BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR OWN PERFORMANCE, HE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT HIS LAST ANNUAL SPRING RECEPTION FOR CIVIL SERVICE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTATIVES TODAY (FRIDAY), MR WIGGHAM SAID: "THIS IS A FURTHER AND NATURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE THEME OF DELEGATION OF AUTHORITIES WHICH I HAVE TRIED TO PURSUE.

"I SEE THAT, IN FUTURE, CSB SHOULD FOCUS MORE ON THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF DEVELOPING OVERALL POLICIES, PRACTICES AND SERVICE-WIDE STANDARDS IN HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT."

ALTHOUGH MUCH WILL HAVE TO BE DONE TO REALISE THIS VISION, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT WITH TRUST AND CO-OPERATION ON ALL SIDES, THE BRANCH, DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND ALL CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD COLLECTIVELY MAKE THE EXERCISE A SUCCESS.

MR WIGGHAM POINTED OUT THAT AS SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, HIS OBJECTIVES WERE TO DEVELOP POLICIES AND PRACTICES WHICH WOULD ASSIST DEPARTMENTS IN FINDING STAFF OF THE RIGHT CALIBRE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ENSURING THAT CIVIL SERVANTS WERE TREATED FAIRLY.

HE ADMITTED THAT THE THREE PARTIES DID NOT ALWAYS SEE EYE TO EYE, BUT HIS EXPERIENCE OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS SHOWED THAT THE BEST WAY TO ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE ANY DIFFERENCES WAS "TO APPROACH EACH OTHER WITH TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING; TO BE WILLING TO TALK AND IF NECESSARY MAKE COMPROMISES; AND TO BE OPEN AND SINCERE IN DEALING WITH EACH OTHER AS HUMAN BEINGS".

"WE HAVE A COMMON INTEREST," HE TOLD THE 400 GUESTS WHO ATTENDED THE GATHERING, ADDING THAT "WE ALL TAKE PRIDE IN HAVING A PROFESSIONAL AND EFFICIENT CIVIL SERVICE".

MR WIGGHAM ALSO TOLD THE GATHERING THAT HONG KONG'S CIVIL SERVICE TODAY WAS SUBJECT TO "UNPARALLELED PRESSURES" FROM AN INCREASINGLY VOCAL COMMUNITY DEMANDING BETTER QUALITY AND MORE EFFICIENT SERVICES.

THERE ARE ALSO PRESSURES FROM A MORE POLITICISED LEGISLATURE AND PRESSURES RELATING MORE DIRECTLY TO THE TRANSITION BEYOND 1997.

THIS IS INDEED A TIME TO FOSTER UNITY AND TO GIVE THE CIVIL SERVICE STRENGTH TO FACE THE CHALLENGES AHEAD, HE STATED.

"I AM ALL TOO CONSCIOUS OF CSB'S LIMITATIONS AND WOULD APPEAL TO YOU -- MANAGERS AND LEADERS -- TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE MANAGEMENT OF PEOPLE, TO SHOW CARE AND CONCERN, AND TO CULTIVATE A SPIRIT OF TOGETHERNESS IN THE SERVICE," HE SAID.

MR WIGGHAM, WHO WILL BE LEAVING THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS, WILL BE POSTED TO WASHINGTON DC LATER THIS YEAR, TO TAKE CHARGE OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES.

CIVIL SERVANTS FACE MORE CHALLENGES

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TO BE A CIVIL SERVANT AT THIS TIME IS MORE CHALLENGING THAN EVER, IN VIEW OF THE CHANGES THAT ARE ALL AROUND, AS WELL OF COURSE WITH THE TRANSITION IN THE RUN UP TO 1997.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID THIS TODAY (FRIDAY) WHEN HE REVIEWED A PASSING-OUT PARADE OF FIRE SERVICES RECRUITS AT THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL.

"BUT NO MATTER WHAT CHANGES THAT FUTURE MIGHT HOLD, THE COMMUNITY'S EXPECTATION THAT IT CAN RELY ON THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EFFICIENT SERVICE IN ORDER TO SAVE LIFE AND PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF FIRE OR OTHER DISASTER WILL NEVER CHANGE," HE SAID.

MR WIGGHAM NOTED THAT THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS TO ANNOUNCE ITS PERFORMANCE PLEDGES, IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT'S "SERVING THE COMMUNITY" SCHEME.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTMENT, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS SPEEDY RESPONSE TO THE SCHEME, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE STANDARD OF SERVICES IT PLEDGED WOULD BE REASSURING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

"PEOPLE WHO NEED THE SERVICES ARE INVARIABLY THOSE SUFFERING FROM MISFORTUNE, AS THEIR LIVES AND PROPERTY ARE IMPERILLED BY FIRE OR OTHER DISASTERS," HE SAID.

MR WIGGHAM RECALLED THAT WHEN HE CAME TO HONG KONG IN 1961, THE FIRE BRIGADE (NOW THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT) ONLY HAD 72 FIRE AND AMBULANCE VEHICLES HOUSED IN 19 FIRE STATIONS WITH A STAFF OF JUST OVER 1,000.

TODAY, HE SAID, THE DEPARTMENT IS EQUIPPED WITH 546 MODERN AND SOPHISTICATED FIRE APPLIANCES AND AMBULANCES, ACCOMMODATED IN 63 FIRE STATIONS AND 29 AMBULANCE DEPOTS AND, MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, MANNED BY OVER 7,000 "DEVOTED AND EXTREMELY SKILFUL" FIRE SERVICES PERSONNEL.

MR WIGGHAM SAID TODAY'S CEREMONY WAS SPECIALLY MEANINGFUL TO HIM AS IT WAS THE LAST TIME HE WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND A HONG KONG FIRE SERVICES FUNCTION AS THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, BEFORE HIS POSTING TO WASHINGTON.

TAKING PART IN TODAY'S PARADE WERE 100 NEW RECRUITS WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED A 26-WEEK INITIAL TRAINING IN THE SCHOOL.

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QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY
RESULTS FOR FOURTH QUARTER 1992

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MANUFACTURERS GENERALLY REPORTED THAT THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR WAS LARGELY THE SAME AS THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

LOOKING AHEAD, MANUFACTURERS EXPECT A DETERIORATION IN BOTH ASPECTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

THIS IS, HOWEVER, LARGELY SEASONAL AS THE FIRST QUARTER IS USUALLY A QUIET SEASON FOR MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES OWING TO THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

LOCAL PRICE COMPETITION REMAINED THE MOST CITED PROBLEM BY MANUFACTURERS AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORRY THEM IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

BUT THE PROBLEMS OF HIGH WAGE RATES AND MATERIAL PRICES HAD SHOWN SIGNS OF ALLEVIATION AND ARE EXPECTED TO EASE FURTHER IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

FOR INDIVIDUAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY EXPERIENCED FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992. THIS WAS DUE TO INCREASED ORDERS RELATED TO CHRISTMAS SALES.

ALSO THE PRESSURE OF HIGH WAGE RATES EASED A LITTLE IN THE QUARTER.

LOOKING AHEAD, MANUFACTURERS GENERALLY EXPECT A SEASONAL DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

MANUFACTURERS FROM THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY GENERALLY EXPERIENCED A DETERIORATED GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER. TROUBLED BY INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS, THEY WERE ALSO FACED WITH INCREASINGLY KEEN PRICE COMPETITION.

THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY EXPERIENCED BROADLY THE SAME GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AS IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, WHILE THE CAPACITY UTILISATION IMPROVED SLIGHTLY.

AS REGARDS BUSINESS PROBLEMS, HIGH WAGE RATES AND PREMISE RENTALS SHOWED SIGNS OF ALLEVIATION IN THE QUARTER.

MANUFACTURERS FROM THE FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO INDUSTRY REPORTED THAT THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE QUARTER MANAGED TO REMAIN THE SAME AS THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT BUSINESS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER IS USUALLY LESS ACTIVE FOR THE INDUSTRY.

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AMONG THESE MANUFACTURERS, THE TOBACCO MANUFACTURERS REPORTED AN IMPROVED GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE QUARTER, MAINLY DUE TO THE INCREASE IN ORDERS FROM CHINA.

AFTER EXPERIENCING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT FOR SEVERAL QUARTERS, THE PRINTING INDUSTRY EXPERIENCED BROADLY THE SAME GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AS IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

THIS PROBABLY REFLECTS A CONSOLIDATION OF BUSINESS IN THE INDUSTRY AFTER CONSIDERABLE EXPANSION IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTERS.

THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY EXPERIENCED A DETERIORATION IN GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, WITH SOME UNEXPECTED LOSS OF BUSINESS ORDERS AMONG SOME LARGE FIRMS.

LOOKING AHEAD, MANUFACTURERS GENERALLY EXPECT FURTHER DETERIORATION IN BOTH ASPECTS IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION REMAINED THE SAME AS THEY WERE IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

LOOKING AHEAD, THEY EXPECT THAT BUSINESS SITUATION WILL DETERIORATE SLIGHTLY WHILE CAPACITY UTILISATION WILL REMAIN BROADLY THE SAME IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

REGARDING BUSINESS PROBLEMS, PRICE COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FIRMS REMAINED THE MOST FREQUENTLY QUOTED PROBLEM IN THE SECTOR.

MOST OF THE FIRMS FROM THE INDUSTRY OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES REPORTED THAT THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD REMAINED BROADLY THE SAME AS THEY WERE IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

LOOKING AHEAD, FIRMS IN THIS TRADE GENERALLY EXPECT THAT THE BUSINESS SITUATION WILL REMAIN THE SAME IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

AS REGARDS THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IMPROVED FURTHER IN THE QUARTER, WHICH IS A HIGH SEASON FOR RETAIL SALES.

LOOKING AHEAD, FIRMS FROM THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES GENERALLY EXPECT THAT THE FAVOURABLE BUSINESS SITUATION WILL CONTINUE INTO THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

NONETHELESS, THE FIRMS WILL STILL HAVE TO COPE WITH KEEN PRICE COMPETITION, HIGH STAFF COSTS AND RENTALS.

RESTAURANT OPERATORS EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVED GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE QUARTER, WHICH IS USUALLY A HIGH SEASON FOR RESTAURANT BUSINESS.

LOOKING AHEAD, RESTAURANT OPERATORS GENERALLY EXPECT A SLIGHT FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION.

THE MAJORITY OF HOTEL OPERATORS REPORTED IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE QUARTER.

LOOKING AHEAD, THEY EXPECT THAT BOTH ASPECTS WILL DETERIORATE IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER WHEN A LOW SEASON OF BUSINESS SETS IN.

FOR THE BANKING INDUSTRY, THE MAJORITY OF BANKS REPORTED THAT THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE QUARTER WAS JUST BROADLY THE SAME AS IT WAS IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, ALTHOUGH IMPROVEMENT NORMALLY OCCURS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER.

THE INDUSTRY WAS TROUBLED PARTICULARLY BY KEEN PRICE COMPETITION, SHORTAGE OF EXPERIENCED STAFF AND HIGH STAFF COSTS. LOOKING AHEAD, THE BANKS GENERALLY EXPECT THAT THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION WILL DETERIORATE IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

ABOUT 1,000 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND TRADES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY.

THEY WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCES AND EXPECTATIONS AS WELL AS THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS THEY FACED.

THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE A SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG FROM A SHORT-TERM PERSPECTIVE.

IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND THE LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD 'IMPROVED', 'REMAINED THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATE' IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992 AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO 'IMPROVE', 'REMAIN THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATE' IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993.

THE OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE THEN ANALYSED AND THE SUMMARY FINDINGS PUBLISHED IN THE "REPORT ON QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, FOURTH QUARTER 1992".

MOREOVER, THE SURVEY REPORT CONTAINS A SECTION ON THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN THE DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS, AND A BREAKDOWN OF THE VIEWS OF FIRMS BY EMPLOYMENT SIZE GROUP.

THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' RECOLLECTION OF THE PAST AND PERCEPTION OF THE FUTURE ACCORDED WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY BUY THE SURVEY REPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, OR FROM THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$9 A COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 839 3223.

AMBULANCEMEN PRAISED FOR RESCUE WORK

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NINETEEN AMBULANCEMEN WERE TODAY (FRIDAY) HIGHLY COMMENDED BY THEIR CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER, MR CHEUNG CHAN-CHUNG, FOR THEIR COURAGE, WHOLEHEARTEDNESS AND UNRESERVEDNESS IN DISCHARGING THEIR DUTIES IN LIFE-SAVING DURING THE LAN KWAI FONG INCIDENT ON THE NEW YEAR DAY.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT SAI WAN HO AMBULANCE DEPOT, MR CHEUNG SAID THE OFFICERS HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO SAVE LIFE.

SPECIAL MENTION WAS MADE ON THREE AMBULANCEMEN WHO RENDERED CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION TO SERIOUSLY INJURED PERSONS BY USING DIRECT MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESUSCITATION DISREGARDING THE RISK OF CONTRACTING POSSIBLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

ALL THE 19 OFFICERS WERE OFF-DUTY WHEN THE INCIDENT HAPPENED. BUT THEY VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE PART IN THE RESCUE OPERATION.

"WITH THEIR PARTICIPATION, ALL THE CASUALTIES WERE TREATED AND CONVEYED TO HOSPITALS AT THE MOST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANNER," MR CHEUNG SAID.

HE ADDED THAT WITHOUT THE LEADERSHIP OF SUPERINTENDENT (AMBULANCE) LUI KWOK-FAI, AND EARLY RESUSCITATIONS AND COMPRESSIONS GIVEN TO THE INJURED, MANY MORE LIVES MIGHT HAVE BEEN LOST.

OF THEM, FOUR WERE AWARDED THE CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER'S COMMENDATIONS AND THE REMAINING 15 FAVOURABLE ENTRIES.

THREE OTHER AMBULANCEMEN WERE ALSO PRESENTED WITH FAVOURABLE ENTRIES TODAY FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY IN A SEPARATE INCIDENT.

THEY WALKED UP 33 STOREYS OF A BUILDING AT MEI LAM ESTATE IN SHA TIN AND CARRIED AN ELDERLY PATIENT DOWN WHEN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY WAS INTERRUPTED.

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NEW BOOKLET ON SAVE MONEY AND THE EARTH

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HAS IT EVER OCCURED TO YOU THAT YOU CAN BOTH SAVE MONEY AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT?

YES, IT IS POSSIBLE AND ACTUALLY IT IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD DO AS A RESPONSIBLE TENANT OF THIS EARTH.

A NEW BOOKLET HAS BEEN PUBLISHED JOINTLY BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) AND THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ISD) TO SHOW THE PUBLIC HOW THEY CAN HELP TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT WHILE SAVING MONEY.

"THIS SPECIALLY DESIGNED 'SAVE MONEY, SAVE THE EARTH' BOOKLET CONTAINS 88 EASY WAYS FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ACHIEVE THIS," AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID.

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"THERE ARE DVICE ON CUTTING ELECTRICITY AND WATER BILLS AT HOME, AND HOW TO SAVE TRAVEL COSTS," SHE SAID.

"IT ALSO LISTS WAYS FOR YOU TO CUT DOWN UNNECESSARY EXPENSES AND REDUCE WASTE."

THE BOOKLET MENTIONS THAT 24,000 TONNES OF WASTE ARE DUMPED EVERYDAY. THIS INCLUDES 15 MILLION PLASTIC BAGS OR 25 BUS LOADS OF SUCH BAGS.

MANY OF THESE BAGS, LIKE MUCH OF OUR SEWAGE, FIND ITS WAY INTO THE HARBOUR, POLLUTING THE WATERS AND KILLING MARINE LIFE.

"THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN THIS BOOKLET. IT PROVIDES EASY-TO-FOLLOW ADVICE ON SIMPLE EVERYDAY STEPS WHICH WHEN ADDED TOGETHER ACROSS HONG KONG, WILL GIVE ALL OF US A HAPPIER, HEALTHIER AND CLEANER FUTURE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BOOKLET IS PUBLISHED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE AND IS NOW AVAILABLE FREE AT EPD OFFICES, DISTRICT OFFICES, PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE OFFICES, OUTLETS OF THE URBAN SERVICES AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS, AND GIS MARKETING OFFICE.

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NEW CHANNEL FOR STUDENTS TO REPORT TRIADS
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FORTY-EIGHT SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL PARTICIPATE IN A STUDENT CRIME INFORMATION FORM (CIF) PILOT SCHEME, WHICH, IF PROVED EFFECTIVE, WILL SERVE AS A NEW CHANNEL FOR STUDENT TO REPORT TRIAD-RELATED MATTERS AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES THEY MAY COME ACROSS IN OR OUTSIDE SCHOOLS.

INTRODUCING THE PILOT SCHEME TODAY (FRIDAY), A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE IDEA WAS FIRST PROPOSED BY THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE EARLY LAST YEAR AND THAT FOLLOWING A COMPREHENSIVE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, IT HAD RECEIVED FAVOURABLE RESPONSE FROM BOTH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

COMMENTING ON THE SCHEME, THE SPOKESMAN ELABORATED THAT STUDENTS CONSTITUTED A MAJOR SOURCE OF RAW RECRUITS TO TRIAD SOCIETIES AS THEY WERE YOUNG, WEAK-WILLED AND EASY TO CONTROL.

ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES COMMITTED BY STUDENTS INVOLVED IN TRIAD ACTIVITIES IS NOT ALARMING, AS OPPOSED TO THE TOTAL STUDENT POPULATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS "A NEED TO NIP THE PROBLEM IN THE BUD".

"A SPECIALLY DESIGNED STUDENT CIF, WHICH IS SIMPLE AND EASY TO FILL IN, WILL ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO REPORT TRIAD-RELATED MATTERS AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES TO THE POLICE," HE SAID.

THE STUDENT CIF SERVES TO COMPLEMENT OTHER CRIME REPORTING METHODS SUCH AS THE 999 EMERGENCY CALL, THE POLICE HOTLINE 527 7177 AND THE TRIAD HOTLINE 527 7887.

THE STUDENT CIF IS AN EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT CIF SCHEME WHICH HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL TO HAVE TODAY INCLUDED IN ITS NETWORK SOME 700 DISTRIBUTION OUTLETS.

"SINCE 1980 WHEN THE CIF SCHEME WAS FIRST IMPLEMENTED, A TOTAL OF 14,848 COMPLETED CIFs WERE RECEIVED, RESULTING IN 4,192 ARRESTS. THIS FIGURE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF THAT THE SCHEME IS EFFECTIVE IN HELPING THE POLICE IN OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE STUDENT CIF PILOT SCHEME WILL BE ON TRIAL FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS. THE 48 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS COME FROM TWO POLICE DISTRICTS, WONG TAI SIN AND WESTERN WHICH HAVE FEWER NUMBERS OF SCHOOLS, COMPARED TO OTHER DISTRICTS, THEREBY ALLOWING A MORE STRINGENT ASSESSMENT BE MADE OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHEME.

"INFORMATION RECEIVED THROUGH THE STUDENT CIF AND THE IDENTITY OF THE INFORMANT WILL BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"HEADMASTERS WILL DECIDE WHERE TO PLACE THE CIF HOLDERS TO MAKE THE FORM EASILY AVAILABLE AND THE USERS LESS PRONE TO BE VICTIMISED," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

ROUTINE VISITS WILL BE MADE BY SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS TO MONITOR IF ANY PROBLEMS WILL ARISE.

THE SCHEME WILL BE PUT UNDER REVIEW, FOLLOWING THE SIX-MONTH TRIAL, TO ASSESS THE SUITABILITY OF A FULL IMPLEMENTATION IN ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

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PRE-QUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS FOR WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR WORKS

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING CONTRACTORS TO APPLY FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR TENDERING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE YAU MA TEI SECTION PHASE II OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR AND ASSOCIATED FOOTBRIDGE AND SUBWAY SYSTEM.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID WORKS INVOLVED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DUAL TWO-TO THREE-LANE FLYOVER EXTENSION OF ABOUT 650 METRES LONG ALONG FERRY STREET ACROSS WATERLOO ROAD JUNCTION WITH FOUR CONNECTING RAMPS.

A 400-METRE TWO-LANE UPRAMP ALONG CHERRY STREET TO LINK WITH THE EXISTING NORTHBOUND FLYOVER IN TAI KOK TSUI ROAD WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED.

THE ASSOCIATED FOOTBRIDGE WORKS INVOLVED TWO FOOTBRIDGE SYSTEMS ALONG FERRY STREET AT ITS JUNCTION WITH DUNDAS STREET AND WATERLOO ROAD AND A NEW PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY ACROSS FERRY STREET NEAR PUBLIC SQUARE STREET.

/OTHER WORKS

OTHER WORKS INCLUDED A SECTION OF ADVANCED TUNNEL WORKS FOR THE CENTRAL KOWLOON ROUTE ACROSS FERRY STREET AT ITS JUNCTION WITH TUNG KUN STREET INVOLVING TWO DIAPHRAGM WALLS AND BARRETTES TOGETHER WITH A TOP SLAB BETWEEN THE DIAPHRAGM WALLS; AND OTHER ASSOCIATED GROUND LEVEL ROADWORKS AND EXTENSIVE DRAINAGE WORKS.

DETAILS OF THE PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE ARE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

TENDERS FROM THE PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS WILL BE CALLED LATER THIS YEAR. CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO START IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR AND WILL BE COMPLETED AROUND AUGUST 1996.

CONTRACTORS ON THE APPROVED CONTRACTORS FOR PUBLIC WORKS LIST I GROUP C CONFIRMED FOR ROADS AND DRAINAGE WORKS, OR ON LIST II CONFIRMED FOR ROADS AND DRAINAGE WORKS, OR JOINT VENTURES OF THE SAID LIST I AND LIST II APPROVED CONTRACTORS CAN APPLY TO THE REGIONAL HIGHWAY ENGINEER, HIGHWAYS/KOWLOON REGION, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, ROOM 207, ANNEX BUILDING, FARM ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 11 FARM ROAD, KOWLOON FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS.

CLOSING DATE FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION APPLICATION IS NOON ON MARCH 12 (FRIDAY).

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BILL FOR SETTLEMENT OF SEA CLAIMS GAZETTED

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THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (LIMITATION OF SHIPOWNERS LIABILITY) BILL, PROPOSING TO GIVE EFFECT IN HONG KONG TO TWO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, THE ATHENS CONVENTION ON THE CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS AND THEIR LUGGAGE BY SEA 1974 AND THE CONVENTION ON LIMITATION OF LIABILITY FOR MARITIME CLAIMS 1976, WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PRINCIPAL SURVEYOR (MULTI-LATERAL POLICY) OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, MR DUNCAN DRUMMOND, SAID: "THE BILL WILL REPLACE UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION WHICH IS AT PRESENT APPLIED TO HONG KONG, THEREBY ENABLING HONG KONG TO APPLY THESE TWO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS BY MEANS OF ITS OWN DOMESTIC LEGISLATION."

"THE CONVENTIONS PROVIDE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS ARISING FROM THE CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS AND THEIR LUGGAGE BY SEA ON INTERNATIONAL VOYAGES, AND THE LIMITATION OF LIABILITY OF SHIPOWNERS AND SALVORS IN RESPECT OF CERTAIN MARITIME CLAIMS," HE SAID.

THE BILL LOCALISES THE EXISTING UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION, AND DOES NOT INTRODUCE ANY NEW PROVISION. IT WILL HOWEVER BE POSSIBLE TO AMEND THE LEGISLATION IN THE FUTURE IF NEED ARISES.

IT WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 24 FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

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AIR QUALITY REPORT FOR JANUARY RELEASED

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (FRIDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 1993.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS TO MAKE THE PUBLIC MORE AWARE OF THE AIR QUALITY LEVELS TO WHICH THEY MIGHT BE EXPOSED.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT NORMALLY CONTAINS MONITORING RESULTS OBTAINED AT ITS MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG MONITORING STATIONS.

THESE LOCATIONS ARE TYPICAL OF THREE OF THE IMPORTANT LAND USE TYPES FOUND IN THE TERRITORY, NAMELY:

- * LOCATIONS CLOSE TO ROAD TRAFFIC IN BUILT-UP URBAN DISTRICTS,
- * COMBINED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, AND
- * DISTRICTS CLOSE TO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

THE REPORTED AIR POLLUTANTS INCLUDE SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂), NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂), RESPIRABLE SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (RSP) AND TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP).

THE GASEOUS POLLUTANTS ARE MONITORED CONTINUOUSLY WHILE PARTICLE SAMPLES ARE COLLECTED FOR 24 HOURS, ONCE EVERY SIX DAYS.

IN JANUARY, THE CONCENTRATIONS OF ALL SPECIES WERE BELOW THE HOURLY AND 24-HOUR AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVE VALUES THROUGHOUT THE MONTH, ALTHOUGH AT MONG KOK THE 24-HOUR NO₂ CONCENTRATIONS WERE A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THE 150UG/M³ AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVE.

CONCENTRATIONS VARIED SIMILARLY AT ALL SITES INDICATING THAT THE VARIATIONS WERE PRIMARILY THE RESULT OF REGIONAL METEOROLOGY RATHER THAN THE INFLUENCE OF LOCAL SOURCES.

THE FOUR POLLUTANTS DISCUSSED HAVE DIFFERENT ORIGINS. SO₂ MOSTLY ORIGINATES FROM THE COMBUSTION OF SULPHUR CONTAINING FOSSIL FUELS. NO₂ IS FORMED EITHER DIRECTLY DURING COMBUSTION OR, BY THE ATMOSPHERIC OXIDATION OF NITRIC OXIDE (NO) WHICH IS ALSO PRODUCED DURING COMBUSTION.

VEHICLE EXHAUST IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF NO AND NO₂. VEHICLE EXHAUST IS ALSO A MAJOR SOURCE OF AIRBORNE PARTICLES; OTHER SOURCES INCLUDE INDUSTRY, FURNACES AND BOILERS, CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE SEA AND SOIL DUST.

THE EPD MONITORS AIR QUALITY CONTINUOUSLY AT 11 STATIONS, INCLUDING THE THREE MENTIONED ABOVE.

/SHORT-TERM

SHORT-TERM MEASUREMENT CAMPAIGNS ARE ALSO UNDERTAKEN AS AND WHERE THE NEED ARISES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER ENQUIRY CAN BE DIRECTED TO PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR R LEUNG ON TEL 594 6401.

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APPRENTICE TRAINING HELPS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

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IT IS IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG TO TRAIN A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF CRAFTSMEN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR KWOK PING-KI, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

OFFICIATING AT A GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR GOVERNMENT CRAFT APPRENTICES, MR KWOK POINTED OUT THAT AS HONG KONG WAS UNDERGOING CHANGES IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, THERE WAS EVEN A MORE URGENT NEED TO CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWEVER, MR KWOK NOTED THAT A SHORTAGE OF TECHNICAL HUMAN RESOURCES WAS ONE OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

HE STRESSED THAT WHILE THE GOVERNMENT WAS EXPANDING TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION AT TERTIARY LEVEL, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT EVERY STEP SHOULD BE TAKEN TO TRAIN SUFFICIENT CRAFTSMEN TO WORK TOGETHER WITH TECHNOLOGISTS AND MANAGERS SO AS TO STRIKE A BALANCE IN IMPLEMENTING THE TERRITORY'S INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

GRADUATING TODAY ARE 19 CRAFT APPRENTICES WHO HAVE ACQUIRED A PARTICULAR SKILL AND ARE PROFICIENT IN THEIR OWN TRADE.

"THEY WILL BECOME THE NEW BLOOD IN THE INDUSTRY, READY TO MEET NEW CHALLENGE IN THE DEVELOPING INDUSTRY OF HONG KONG OR EVEN ABROAD," MR KWOK SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT'S CRAFT APPRENTICES TRAINING SCHEME IS RUN BY THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

UNDER THE SCHEME, SELECTED CANDIDATES UNDERGO A FOUR-YEAR TRAINING PROGRAMME WHICH COMPRISES BOTH THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICAL SKILL.

THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE IS OBTAINED FROM STUDY AT THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, AND PRACTICAL SKILL IS ACQUIRED THROUGH A SIX-MONTH BASIC TRAINING AT THE APPRENTICE TRAINING CENTRE, FOLLOWED BY A THREE-YEAR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING IN VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE PARTICIPATING DEPARTMENTS.

"THE PRESENT ANNUAL RECRUITMENT FIGURE FOR CRAFT APPRENTICES IS 100 DIVIDED BY TWO INTAKES AT A SIX-MONTH INTERVAL. AT PRESENT, 321 CRAFT APPRENTICES ARE RECEIVING TRAINING UNDER THIS SCHEME.

"SINCE THE LAUNCHING OF THE SCHEME IN 1969, SOME 2,000 CRAFT APPRENTICES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING AND MOST OF THEM HAVE BEEN RETAINED IN THE GOVERNMENT AS SUPERVISORS AND CRAFTSMEN," MR KWOK SAID.

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DO PLEDGES BETTER COMMUNITY SERVICES
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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FOR BETTER SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE POK OI HOSPITAL TIN SHUI WAI AFTER SCHOOL DAY CARE CENTRE THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON, YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ROBIN MCLEISH, SAID THIS WAS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO IMPROVE THE TERRITORY'S WELFARE SERVICES.

"TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE, IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE COULD LET THE GOVERNMENT HAVE THEIR OPINIONS FOR REFERENCE," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE GOVERNOR'S CONSTITUTIONAL BLUEPRINT, MR MCLEISH URGED PEOPLE TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS.

"IN THIS WAY, I BELIEVE THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS WILL BE FAIR AND APPROPRIATE," HE SAID.

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PUBLIC URGED TO SUPPORT SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, TODAY (FRIDAY) CALLED ON THE COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF ALL SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES.

HE MADE THE PLEA WHEN ADDRESSING A SPRING RECEPTION ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN/WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

THE GOVERNOR HAD INJECTED CONSIDERABLE FUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY, CHILD CARE, FAMILY WELFARE, ELDERLY AND REHABILITATION SERVICES IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, HE NOTED.

"WE HOPE TO SEE TREMENDOUS IMPROVEMENT BOTH IN THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF THESE WELFARE SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY AND TO REDUCE SERVICE SHORTFALLS.

"I, THEREFORE, APPEAL FOR THE PUBLIC'S CONTINUOUS SUPPORT IN ALL THESE SERVICES, PARTICULARLY THOSE FOR DISABLED PERSONS, SO THAT WE COULD ENABLE THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY AND TO LEAD AS NORMAL A LIFE AS THEIR CAPABILITIES PERMIT," MR STRACHAN SAID.

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ACCIDENT TO ISLANDER AEROPLANE CONCLUDED

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE (RHKAAF) SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT INVESTIGATORS HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE ACCIDENT ON DECEMBER 15, LAST YEAR WHICH RESULTED IN THE DITCHING OF AN RHKAAF ISLANDER AEROPLANE IN TOLO HARBOUR, WAS CAUSED BY PILOT ERROR.

THE AEROPLANE WAS ON A ROUTINE TRAINING FLIGHT TO PRACTISE STEEP TURNS AND STALLS.

ON THE FIRST STALL, BOTH ENGINES FAILED AND THE TWO PILOTS WERE UNABLE TO RESTART THEM. THE AIRCRAFT LANDED IN THE SEA AND THE CREW WERE RESCUED BY HELICOPTER.

THE CAUSE OF THE ENGINE STOPPAGE IS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN THE BUILD UP OF ICING IN THE CARBURETTOR. THIS COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED IF THE CORRECT PROCEDURES HAD BEEN FOLLOWED.

APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL AND DISCIPLINARY MEASURES ARE TO BE TAKEN.

THE AIRCRAFT, WHICH WAS SALVAGED FROM THE SEA FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION, IS BEYOND ECONOMIC REPAIR.

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TELA'S RECEPTION FOR FILM ADVISORS

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THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY (TELA) TODAY (FRIDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO THE PANEL OF FILM ADVISORS AT THE AUTHORITY'S SPRING RECEPTION.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REVIEW (FILM CENSORSHIP) AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG THEATRES ASSOCIATION AND THE DIRECTORS GUILD WERE ALSO PRESENT AT THE RECEPTION.

THE PANEL OF FILM ADVISORS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1976 TO ADVISE TELA ON THE EXAMINATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION.

IN 1992, NEARLY 1,200 FILMS WERE EXAMINED AND APPROVED FOR EXHIBITION.

THERE ARE NOW 287 ADVISORS ON THE PANEL AND THEY COME FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS RANGING FROM EXECUTIVES, BUSINESSMEN, PROFESSIONALS TO SOCIAL WORKERS, TEACHERS AND HOUSEWIVES, REPRESENTING A WIDE CROSS SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY.

A MAJOR EXERCISE WAS LAUNCHED RECENTLY TO RECRUIT MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL AND DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES AND STUDENTS AGED 18 TO 21 FROM POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS TO SERVE ON THE PANEL IN ORDER TO FURTHER ENHANCE ITS REPRESENTATION.

/EACH ADVISOR

EACH ADVISOR IS REQUESTED TO ATTEND A FILM VIEWING SESSION ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS AND FIVE TO SIX ADVISORS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND EACH SESSION.

AT THE END OF EACH SESSION, THE ADVISORS ARE INVITED TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINION ON THE STANDARDS OF THE FILM VIEWED AND ITS CLASSIFICATION BY COMPLETING A QUESTIONNAIRE AND DISCUSSING WITH THE OFFICER OF TELA RESPONSIBLE FOR EXAMINING THE FILM.

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NEW MEDICAL CENTRE OPENS IN SHEUNG WAN

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THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS' PLAN TO FURTHER DEVELOP PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH EDUCATION IS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF IMPROVING MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES TO ACHIEVE THE TARGET OF "HEALTH FOR ALL", THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S H LEE, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

DR LEE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE GROUP'S TSUI TSIN TONG MEDICAL CENTRE IN SHEUNG WAN.

THE NEW MEDICAL CENTRE CONSISTS OF DENTAL AND OUT-PATIENT CLINICS FOR STAFF AND THE TUNG WAH HERBALIST CLINIC RESITED FROM THE SAME DISTRICT.

DR LEE SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT THE GROUP WOULD CONSIDER EXTENDING THE OUT-PATIENT CLINIC TO SERVE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AS WELL.

HE PRAISED THE GROUP FOR ITS LONG HISTORY OF OUTSTANDING RECORD IN HELPING THE POOR, THE SICK AND THE DISABLED IN HONG KONG AS THE LARGEST LOCAL CHARITABLE ORGANISATION.

"THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS HAS A LONG HISTORY OF PROVIDING TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICAL CARE TO PATIENTS. THIS SERVICE HAS BEEN VERY POPULAR AMONG MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND HAS BEEN GAINING SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT THE YEARS," HE ADDED.

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NON-GRADUATE TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT SCHEME

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS OPENED MORE DISTRIBUTION CENTRES, FROM TWO TO FOUR, FOR PEOPLE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO COLLECT THE APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE NON-GRADUATE TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT SCHEME.

THE APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT:

- * ROOM G02, LUI KEE EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 269 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG;
- * YAU TSIM DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE, SEVENTH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON;

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- * YUEN LONG DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND TAI KIU MARKET, FOURTH FLOOR, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG; AND
- * SHA TIN DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE, THIRD FLOOR, KCRC HOUSE, SHA TIN.

THE ASSESSMENT SCHEME IS TO ENABLE PEOPLE WHO POSSESS NON-COMMONWEALTH QUALIFICATIONS TO BE ASSESSED FOR TEACHING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BEFORE FEBRUARY 27.

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LAN KWAI FONG INQUIRY

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OUTLINE OF WORK DONE ON FRIDAY
(FEBRUARY 12) UP TO 4.30 PM

1. STUDYING REPORTS AND OTHER MATERIAL ON TRAFALGAR SQUARE.
2. REVIEWING ENTERTAINMENT AND "CLUB" LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS.
3. CORRESPONDENCE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,150
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,150
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 114.8 *-0.3* 12.2.1993	

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.05 PCT	12 MONTHS	2402	5.50	101.81	3.69
1 MONTH	3.03 PCT	15 MONTHS	2405	5.50	101.92	3.95
3 MONTHS	3.04 PCT	18 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.33	4.19
6 MONTHS	3.21 PCT	21 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.39	4.44
12 MONTHS	3.65 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 4,069MN

CLOSED 12 FEBRUARY 1993

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