



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1993

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LAN KWAI FONG INTERIM REPORT RELEASES TOMORROW

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THE INTERIM REPORT ON THE LAN KWAI FONG INCIDENT AND THE GOVERNMENT'S IMMEDIATE RESPONSE WILL BE PUBLISHED TOMORROW (TUESDAY) SO THAT SOME MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN BEFORE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID THIS (MONDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER RECEIVING THE INTERIM REPORT FROM MR JUSTICE BOKHARY, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "OUR INTENTION, AS YOU KNOW, WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS IN ADVANCE OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS."

HE THANKED MR JUSTICE BOKHARY FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT SWIFTLY.

"ALL OF US IN THE COMMUNITY ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SENSITIVITY WHICH HE HAS SHOWN IN DEALING WITH EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES," HE SAID.

THE INTERIM REPORT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH.

MEANWHILE, MR JUSTICE BOKHARY THANKED ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAD RESPONDED TO ENABLE HIS TEAM TO PRODUCE THE INTERIM REPORT.

"MY JOBS REMAIN TO WORK ON THE FINAL REPORT AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CO-OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC AND OF THE MEDIA IN RELATION TO THAT," HE SAID.

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YOUTH SUICIDE - HOTLINE RECOMMENDED

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH HAVE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE RECENT SPATE OF YOUTH SUICIDES AT ITS MEETING TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AFTER THE MEETING, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, MR ERIC LI, SAID MUCH WORK AND STUDY HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT BY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS ON THIS TRAGIC PROBLEM SINCE THE COMMISSION FIRST DISCUSSED THIS IN LATE 1991.

NEVERTHELESS, COMMISSION MEMBERS WERE STILL LOOKING INTO MORE WAYS TO PREVENT YOUTH SUICIDES - A PROBLEM THAT APPARENTLY BEGAN TO SWELL SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.

MEMBERS EMPHASISED THAT A SPECIAL HOTLINE SHOULD BE DEDICATED TO YOUNGSTERS IN DISTRESS. THIS COULD ALSO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL LOOK INTO THIS IN THE HOPE THAT SUCH HOTLINE MANNED BY PROFESSIONALS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE IN NEED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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"WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW TO WHOM MOST YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD TURN TO WHEN THEY ARE IN DISTRESS AND A STUDY INTO THAT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMMISSION," MR LI SAID.

"IF THAT CAN BE IDENTIFIED, WE CAN STRENGTHEN OUR PUBLICITY IN A MORE SPECIFIED DIRECTION AND TO ENHANCE THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF SUPPORT," HE ADDED.

AS THE MEDIA HAVE AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON YOUTHS, MR LI SAID A SEMINAR WOULD BE ORGANISED TO EXPLORE HOW MEDIA COULD PLAY ROLE IN COUNTERING THE PROBLEM AND TO CULTIVATE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, AMONG YOUTH, TO LIFE.

AS TO THE PROBLEM OF ALCOHOL ABUSE BY YOUNG PEOPLE, MEMBERS WERE CAUTIOUS AS TO WHETHER A BAN ON THE SALE OF THESE DRINKS TO THOSE UNDER 18 SHOULD BE RECOMMENDED.

MR LI SAID: "SO FAR THERE IS VERY LITTLE DATA ON ALCOHOL ABUSE BY YOUNG PEOPLE, ALTHOUGH DRINKING APPEARS TO BE A RISING TREND AMONG YOUNGSTERS.

"IN VIEW OF THIS, THE COMMISSION FEELS THAT A TOTAL BAN ON THE SALE OF ALCOHOL WAS NOT JUSTIFIED AT THIS TIME.

INSTEAD, THE COMMISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO CONDUCT A SURVEY TO ASCERTAIN THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM BEFORE PUTTING FORWARD ANY CONCRETE PROPOSALS WHICH WILL CORRESPOND TO THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE COMMISSION HOPED THAT PUBLICITY TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF EXCESSIVE DRINKING WOULD ALSO BE STEPPED UP.

THE COMMISSION SEES MERIT IN ASKING THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS TO UNDERTAKE THIS TASK.

THE COMMISSION WILL ALSO WRITE TO THE JUDICIARY, THE POLICE AND THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TO REFLECT THE PUBLIC CONCERN OVER THE ISSUE AND TO ASK THEM TO POSITIVELY ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM.

MR LI SAID: "THE COMMISSION WILL MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND KEEP THIS UNDER REVIEW."

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## JOB QUOTAS ALLOCATION ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (MONDAY) ANNOUNCED THE ALLOCATION OF QUOTAS TO INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES TO BRING IN 13,000 IMPORTED WORKERS UNDER THE GENERAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME.

THESE WORKERS ARE TO REPLACE THE GUEST WORKERS WHO WERE IMPORTED IN 1990 AND WHO ARE DUE TO LEAVE HONG KONG IN BATCHES UPON THE EXPIRY OF THEIR CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT THIS YEAR.

THE OVERALL LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF IMPORTED WORKERS WHO MAY BE BROUGHT IN AT ANY ONE TIME REMAINS UNCHANGED AT 25,000, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH STRESSED.

IN WORKING OUT THE DISTRIBUTION OF QUOTAS, RELEVANT FACTORS INCLUDING NUMBERS OF VACANCIES, WAGE RATES AND TRENDS, LABOUR UTILISATION AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES TO THE ECONOMY HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

OF THE 13,000 IMPORTED WORKERS, THE LARGEST SHARE GOES TO THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES (3,896); FOLLOWED BY THE CATERING SECTOR (2,714) AND THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY (1,160).

THE QUOTAS ALLOCATED TO OTHER INDUSTRIES/SERVICES INCLUDE:

* MACHINE SHOPS	-	928
* BANKING AND FINANCE	-	403
* CONSTRUCTION WORK SITES	-	383
* ELECTRONICS	-	313
* TRANSPORT (E.G. WATER	-	297

TRANSPORT, AIR TRANSPORT,  
COLD STORAGE, GODOWNS)

* PRINTING	-	211
* HOTEL	-	175

"THE NUMBER OF IMPORTED WORKERS ALLOWED FOR EACH INDUSTRY OR SERVICE SECTOR REPRESENTS A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED BY THEM," THE SPOKESMAN NOTED.

"THE SPIRIT OF THE SCHEME REMAINS LIMITED AND SELECTIVE," HE ADDED.

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL ISSUE LETTERS TO SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYERS WHO WILL BE GIVEN SIX MONTHS TO ARRANGE THE IMPORTATION OF WORKERS.

EMPLOYERS WHO DO NOT WISH TO TAKE UP THE QUOTA SHOULD INFORM THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE QUOTA CAN BE REALLOCATED.

"THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THE QUOTA IN THE EVENT OF BREACH OF CONDITIONS BY AN EMPLOYER," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"FURTHERMORE, EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE BREACHED THE CONDITIONS OF THE SCHEME WILL BE DEBARRED FROM TAKING PART IN FUTURE IMPORTATION SCHEMES."

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AND ASSIST IMPORTED WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS TO FIND ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THE LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME WILL NOT MEAN AN AMNESTY OR JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED AS SOON AS THEY ARE APPREHENDED," HE SAID.

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/RESULT OF .....

Result of Allocation by Industries/Services  
按工業/服務行業分析的分配結果

Industries/Services 工業/服務行業	Foreign workers applied for under 1993 General Scheme 在一九九三年一般 計劃下申請輸入的 外地勞工人數	No. of qualified applications (foreign workers applied for) 符合申請資格的人數 (申請輸入的外地勞 工人數)	Quota allocation 配額分配	Share of industry quota in overall quota 工業配額佔全 部配額的百分率
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				(%)
1 Automobile repairing 汽車修理業	547	219	56	0.43
2 Banking and finance 銀行及財經業	411	403	403	5.10
3 Catering 飲食業	13881	9717	2714	20.88
4 Clothing 製衣業	9949	3805	1160	8.92
5 Construction work sites 建築地盤業	6909	2984	383	2.95
6 Electrical 電機業	660	329	26	0.20
7 Electronion 電子業	1717	1026	313	2.41
8 Footwear 製鞋業	61	20	0	0.00
9 Furniture 傢俬業	523	247	4	0.03
10 Handbag 手袋業	204	80	1	0.01
11 Hotel 酒店業	1436	996	175	1.35
12 Insurance 保險業	31	12	12	0.09
13 Jewellery 珠寶業	189	65	13	0.10
14 Machine shop 金屬品製造業	2738	1370	928	7.14
15 Plastics 塑膠業	1250	731	56	0.43
16 Printing 印刷業	847	378	211	1.62
17 Shipbuilding and repairing 船舶修造業	759	664	15	0.12
18 Textile 紡織業	1745	655	88	0.62
19 Tourism 旅遊業	93	51	51	0.39
20 Transport (e.g. water transport, air transport, cold storage, godowns) 運輸業 (例如海運、空運、冷庫、 倉庫)	1532	635	297	2.28
21 Wholesale, retail and import/export trades 批發零售及進出口貿易	9777	3896	3896	29.97
Sub-total 小計	55059	27483	10794	83.03
22 Others (Manufacturing) 其他(製造業)	1665	822	274	2.11
23 Others (Non-manufacturing) 其他(非製造業)	5581	1932	1932	14.86
Total 總計	62305	30237	13000	100.00

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GOVT SETS CEILING ON ACP LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED AN EXTENSION OF THE SPECIAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS.

THE SPECIAL SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN MAY 1990 WITH AN INITIAL QUOTA OF 2,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED, ON THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THAT THE CEILING OF IMPORTED WORKERS PERMITTED TO WORK IN HONG KONG AT ANY ONE TIME UNDER THE SPECIAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME WOULD BE SET AT 5,500 TO COVER THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) PROJECTS FOR WHICH FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS HAD BEEN MADE.

HE SAID FOLLOWING THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS BY CONTRACTORS, THE INITIAL QUOTA OF 2,000 INTENDED TO COVER THE FIRST STAGE OF ACP WORKS HAD BEEN FULLY COMMITTED TO AWARDED CONTRACTS.

THERE IS THEREFORE A NEED TO REVISE THE SPECIAL SCHEME TO COVER THOSE ACP PROJECTS FOR WHICH FINANCIAL COMMITMENT HAD BEEN MADE BUT FOR WHICH REQUIREMENTS OF IMPORTED WORKERS HAD NOT BEEN FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE ORIGINAL SCHEME.

THE RELEVANT PROJECTS ARE THE AIRPORT (FIRST RUNWAY AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES) - SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT, THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY, THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY, THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, ROUTE THREE (PART), LANTAU FIXED CROSSING (INCLUDING RAIL PORTION AND ROUTE THREE INTERCHANGE), TUNG CHUNG DEVELOPMENT PHASE 1.

THE EXISTING ADMISSION PROCEDURES FOR THE SCHEME WILL BE FOLLOWED. BUT A MONTHLY LEVY OF \$400 PER WORKER WOULD BE INTRODUCED FOR THE SPECIAL SCHEME.

"THE REVENUE GENERATED FROM THE LEVY WILL BE USED FOR THE TRAINING AND RETRAINING OF LOCAL WORKERS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE REST OF THE CONDITIONS WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED INCLUDING MANDATORY REGISTRATION BY THE EMPLOYER OF VACANCIES WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WHEN SUBMITTING PRELIMINARY APPLICATIONS, NO DISPLACEMENT OF LOCAL WORKERS WITH IMPORTED WORKERS, FIXED PERMISSIBLE DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES TO COVER FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION, PAYMENT OF WAGES THROUGH THE BANK AND COMPLETION OF A STANDARD CONTRACT IN RESPECT OF EACH WORKER.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE NEED FOR IMPORTATION WILL STEM FROM TWO MAIN FACTORS, FIRST, A LACK OF PARTICULAR SKILLS IN THE LOCAL LABOUR MARKET FOR WHICH WORKERS WOULD NEED TO BE IMPORTED IN ANY EVENT, AND SECONDLY A SHORTFALL OF GENERAL LABOUR IN HONG KONG."

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LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD ENDORSES CHANGES TO WORK SAFETY LAW

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THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD (LAB) THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE UNDER WHICH AN ENABLING CLAUSE WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE LAW TO EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO ISSUE CODES OF PRACTICE FOR ENSURING SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK.

AT ITS FIRST MEETING FOR THE 1993/95 TERM, THE BOARD WAS BRIEFED THAT THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH TO SAFETY AND HEALTH LEGISLATION IS BASED ON AN EXTENSIVE SYSTEM OF DETAILED STATUTORY PROVISIONS, RESULTING IN 26 SETS OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

BY USING CODES OF PRACTICE TO PROVIDE DETAILED STANDARDS, SPECIFICATION AND GUIDELINES IN SIMPLE LAYMAN TERMS WILL RENDER THE PROCESS SIMPLER AND FASTER.

MEMBERS AGREED ON THE COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE NEW LAB. THEY ALSO AGREED THE COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE BOARD'S FIVE COMMITTEES ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION, EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, LABOUR RELATIONS, INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS.

DURING THE MEETING CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS KATHERINE FOK, THE BOARD AGREED TO SEND A DELEGATION TO ATTEND THE 80TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR OPENING IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, ON JUNE 2 THIS YEAR.

A PROGRESS REPORT ON LABOUR LEGISLATION COVERING THE PERIOD BETWEEN JANUARY 1991 AND DECEMBER 1992 WAS TABLED FOR EXAMINATION.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE PREVIOUS BOARD WAS CONSULTED ON A TOTAL OF 24 ITEMS OF PROPOSED LABOUR LEGISLATION. OF THESE, SEVEN HAVE BEEN ENACTED WHILE ACTION IS IN PROGRESS ON THE OTHERS.

THE BOARD THEN NOTED A LIST OF PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE ITEMS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE REFERRED TO MEMBERS FOR ADVICE THIS YEAR.

MEMBERS ALSO DISCUSSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR BOARD MEMBERS TO PUT FORWARD SUGGESTIONS FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

DURING THE MEETING, MRS FOK BRIEFED MEMBERS THE LATEST ALLOCATION OF QUOTAS TO INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES TO BRING IN 13,000 IMPORTED WORKERS UNDER THE GENERAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME.

THE LABOUR COMMISSIONER ALSO BRIEFED LAB MEMBERS THAT WITH THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT THE CEILING OF IMPORTED WORKERS PERMITTED TO WORK IN HONG KONG AT ANY ONE TIME UNDER THE SPECIAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS SHOULD BE SET AT 5,500 TO COVER PROJECTS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMMITTED.

/MRS FOK .....

MRS FOK TOLD MEMBERS THAT STARTING FROM TODAY (MONDAY), EMPLOYERS WHO ARE GRANTED PERMISSION TO IMPORT WORKERS UNDER THE SPECIAL SCHEME SHOULD PAY A LEVY IN A LUMP SUM BASED ON A RATE OF \$400 A MONTH PER IMPORTED WORKER MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF MONTHS COVERED IN THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT.

REVENUE GENERATED FROM THE LEVY SHOULD BE USED FOR AUGMENTING THE PROVISION OF TRAINING OR RETRAINING FOR LOCAL WORKERS UNDER THE STATUTORY EMPLOYEES RETRAINING SCHEME.

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ASD STRIVES TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT STANDARD

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THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR PAUL CORSER, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WAS ACTIVE LAST YEAR IN IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE SAVINGS AND IN IMPLEMENTING SYSTEMS THAT WOULD HELP IN ACHIEVING VALUE FOR MONEY AND IMPROVE PERFORMANCES.

IN A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION, MR CORSER SAID THESE INCLUDED:

- \* COMPUTERISATION PROGRAMME;
- \* STAFF RESOURCES PLANNING SYSTEM (SRPS);
- \* ESTIMATING BY RISK ANALYSIS (ERA);
- \* ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION; AND
- \* THE PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF A QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD OF ISO 9001.

"THE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE WITHIN WORKS BRANCH TO DECLARE A COMMITMENT TO OBTAINING CERTIFICATION UNDER ISO 9001, THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR QUALITY ASSURED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, WITHIN TWO YEARS," HE SAID.

"THIS WILL PROVIDE A BETTER SERVICE TO CLIENTS, IMPROVE VALUE FOR MONEY FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S OPERATIONS, IMPROVE CONTRACTOR'S AND CONSULTANT'S SERVICES AND LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST IT WILL IMPROVE STAFF JOB SATISFACTION AND MORALE," HE ADDED.

ON THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S MAJOR PROJECTS UNDER WAY, THE DIRECTOR SAID THE LARGEST SINGLE PROJECT CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN WAS PHASE I OF THE CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE MARKET COMPLEX.

"THE MARKET HAS AN EXTREMELY FAST TRACK PROGRAMME BEING ON THE CRITICAL PATH OF THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION," MR CORSER SAID.

HE SAID WORKS STARTED ON SITE IN APRIL 1992 AND THE MARKET WOULD BE COMPLETED AND READY FOR OCCUPATION IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE MARKET WILL PROVIDE WHOLESALE FACILITIES FOR THE SALE OF FRESH WATER FISH, VEGETABLES, EGGS AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION.

IT WILL REPLACE THE SCATTERED EXISTING MARKETS IN KOWLOON WHICH WOULD BECOME LANDLOCKED WHEN THE NEXT PHASE OF RECLAMATION WORKS PROCEEDED, HE ADDED.

THE DIRECTOR ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE PAMELA YOUDE HOSPITAL PROJECT, WHICH IS THE LARGEST ONE THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAS EVER UNDERTAKEN AND HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED.

HE SAID THE HOSPITAL WAS BUILT WITHIN BUDGET AND WAS BEING HANDED OVER TO THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY FOR COMMISSIONING.

IT WILL PROVIDE 1,750 BEDS AND HAS A POLYCLINIC, MODERN MEDICAL FACILITIES AND STAFF QUARTERS.

APART FROM PUTTING UP BUILDINGS, MR CORSER POINTED OUT THAT AT A COST OF \$138 MILLION, THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPERTY SERVICES BRANCH HAD ENGAGED IN REFURBISHING 15,300 SQUARE METRES OF OFFICES AT THE WEST WING OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR LONG-TERM USE.

THE PROJECT INCLUDES TWO FLOORS OF OFFICES FOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS.

MR CORSER NOTED THAT 1992 WAS A CHALLENGING YEAR FOR HIM AS DIRECTOR AND FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN GENERAL.

OVER 500 CAPITAL PROJECTS WERE UNDER STUDY, DESIGN OR CONSTRUCTION IN 1992/93.

THE TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IN 1992/93, INCLUDING MINOR WORKS, WILL BE ABOUT \$3,300 MILLION.

IN ADDITION TO THIS, THE DEPARTMENT WILL SPEND \$1,100 MILLION IN REFURBISHMENT, MAINTENANCE AND MINOR ALTERATION WORKS TO OVER 7,000 GOVERNMENT, URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL, HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND BRITISH FORCES BUILDINGS.

"THE FUTURE FOR MY SUCCESSOR WILL BE EVEN MORE CHALLENGING," THE DIRECTOR SAID.

"THE DEPARTMENT IS RISING TO THE CHALLENGES SET OUT BY THE GOVERNOR IN TERMS OF THE MAJOR PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE 1997, THE ENHANCED SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME AND THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES.

"THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO INVOLVED IN PLANNING GOVERNMENT FACILITIES WITHIN THE AIRPORT COMPLEX AT CHAP LAP KOK.

"WE HAVE AN INTERESTING AND EXCITING FUTURE PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND THE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT FEEL PRIVILEGED TO BE WORKING FOR THE PUBLIC AT THIS PERIOD OF HONG KONG'S HISTORY," HE CONCLUDED.

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RESIDENTS REMINDED NOT TO CUT TREES

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THE PUBLIC WERE TODAY (MONDAY) REMINDED NOT TO CUT TREES OR PLANTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR DECORATIVE USE DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD.

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S COUNTRY PARKS PROTECTION OFFICER, MR CHAN PING-KWONG, EXPLAINED THAT CUTTING TREES OR PLANTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WAS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE FORESTS AND COUNTRYSIDE ORDINANCE.

"CONTRAVENTIONS TO THE ORDINANCE MAY LEAD TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$2,000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT.

"ALTHOUGH THE PUBLIC ARE BECOMING MORE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVING THE COUNTRYSIDE, TWO PERSONS WERE ARRESTED FOR ILLEGALLY CUTTING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR FLOWER, ENKIANTHUS QUINQUEFLORUS, IN POK FU LAM LAST FRIDAY," HE SAID.

MR CHAN ALSO REMINDED RESIDENTS WHO INTEND TO WATCH FROST AT TAI MO SHAN IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS NOT TO CUT OR DAMAGE ANY PLANTS THERE.

HE SAID WILD FLOWERS AND TREES WERE BEST APPRECIATED IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT AND SHOULD NOT BE PICKED OR CUT.

HE CALLED ON MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO REPORT TO THE NEAREST COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT CENTRE IF THEY SPOT SUCH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AT THE COUNTRYSIDE.

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MUSIC OFFICE RECRUITS PART-TIME SCORE COPYING STAFF

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THE MUSIC OFFICE IS RECRUITING PART-TIME PROFESSIONAL STAFF FOR SCORE COPYING.

APPLICANTS SHOULD:

- \* POSSESS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC THEORY GRADE VIII OR ABOVE, OR EQUIVALENT;
- \* HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF SCORE COPYING IN CHINESE MUSIC NUMERICAL SCORE NOTATION AND ETHNIC MUSIC INSTRUMENTATION; AND
- \* HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF SCORE COPYING FROM FULL ORCHESTRAL SCORE TO INSTRUMENTAL PART AND VICE VERSA.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO COPY DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCORES FOR USE BY THE MUSIC OFFICE'S ORCHESTRAS OF BANDS.

FEES FOR COPYING WILL RANGE FROM \$9 TO \$19 PER FOOLSCAP-SIZED PAGE.

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NAMES OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE PUT ON A PART-TIME STAFF LIST OF THE MUSIC OFFICE AND THEIR SERVICE WILL BE CALLED UPON AS AND WHEN REQUIRED.

APPLICATION FORMS (G.F. 340) ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES. COMPLETED FORMS TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND DIPLOMAS SHOULD REACH THE MUSIC OFFICE ON 25TH FLOOR, WAN CHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI BY FEBRUARY 20.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 582 5340.

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WEATHER OF DECEMBER

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THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S REPORT SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE WINTER MONSOON BECAME SOMEWHAT SUBDUED IN DECEMBER AFTER A MONTH OF ACTIVE DOMINANCE IN NOVEMBER.

THE MONTH THEREFORE TURNED OUT TO BE ONE OF THE WARMEST DECEMBERS ON RECORD.

THERE WERE ONLY TWO MAJOR NORTHERLY SURGES DURING THE MONTH AND THE COLD SPELL IN BOTH CASES WAS RATHER SHORT.

AS A RESULT, THE MONTHLY MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (17.4 DEGREES), THE MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE (19.2 DEGREES) AND THE MONTHLY MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (21.4 DEGREES) WERE RESPECTIVELY THE SECOND, THIRD AND 10TH HIGHEST FOR DECEMBER.

THE MONTH WAS ALSO UNUSUALLY HUMID WITH MIST OR HAZE OCCURRING ON EIGHT DAYS.

FOG WAS REPORTED INSIDE THE HARBOUR ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 28, THE FIRST TIME IN DECEMBER SINCE 1955.

THE MEAN WET BULB TEMPERATURE OF 16.7 DEGREES, MEAN DEW POINT TEMPERATURE OF 14.9 DEGREES, AND MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF 77 PER CENT RANKED THIRD, SEVENTH AND 10TH HIGHEST FOR DECEMBER RESPECTIVELY.

THE DRY SPELL WHICH STARTED IN AUGUST ENDED AS 66.4 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN FELL DURING THE MONTH.

THE MONTHLY TOTAL WAS NEARLY 2.5 TIMES THE DECEMBER NORMAL OF 27.3 MILLIMETRES, WITH MOST OF THE RAIN FALLING DURING AN UNSEASONAL SPELL OF DAMP AND WET WEATHER AFTER CHRISTMAS.

THE ANNUAL RAINFALL FOR LAST YEAR AMOUNTED TO 2,678.8 MILLIMETRES, 21 PER CENT ABOVE THE ANNUAL MEAN OF 2,214.3 MILLIMETRES.

APART FROM TRACES OF RAIN ON DECEMBER 2, 7 AND 11 AND SOME MIST OR HAZE ON DECEMBER 7 AND 10, FINE AND MILD WEATHER PREVAILED FOR THE FIRST 12 DAYS OF THE MONTH.

THERE WERE THREE WEAK REPLENISHMENTS OF THE WINTER MONSOON DURING THE PERIOD AS THE EASTERLIES FRESHENED ON DECEMBER 3, 8 AND 11.

/WINDS WERE .....

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WINDS WERE MARGINALLY STRONG OFFSHORE ON THE FIRST OCCASION. BUT APART FROM THE WINDIER WEATHER, TEMPERATURE FALLS WERE INSIGNIFICANT ON ALL OCCASIONS.

ONE OF THE WARMEST DAYS IN THE MONTH OCCURRED ON DECEMBER 7 DURING A LULL IN THE EASTERLIES. THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE THAT DAY WAS A WARM 25.4 DEGREES.

THE WEATHER TURNED CLOUDY AND MISTY ON DECEMBER 13 AND THE EASTERLIES FRESHENED AGAIN THAT NIGHT.

THIS WAS CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY A MAJOR SURGE OF COLD NORTHERLY WINDS ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 14. LIGHT RAIN PERSISTED THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND TEMPERATURES STARTED TO FALL.

UNDER A CLOUDY SKY ON DECEMBER 15, COLD AIR FROM THE NORTH CONTINUED TO ADVANCE TOWARDS THE COASTAL AREAS, CULMINATING IN THE MONTH'S LOWEST TEMPERATURE OF 11.7 DEGREES ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 16.

BUT AS WINDS TURNED EASTERLY AND THE CLOUDS BROKE, TEMPERATURES ROSE AGAIN QUICKLY.

THE ARRIVAL OF A MOIST MARITIME AIRSTREAM BROUGHT SOME LIGHT RAIN PATCHES AROUND NOON ON DECEMBER 20.

IT WAS ANOTHER WARM DAY ON DECEMBER 21 WHEN THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE ONCE AGAIN REACHED THE MONTH'S HIGHEST OF 25.4 DEGREES.

EASTERLY WINDS FRESHENED EARLY ON DECEMBER 22. THE WEATHER TURNED CLOUDIER, WITH MISTS PERSISTING TILL THE NEXT MORNING WHEN THE SECOND NORTHERLY SURGE OF THE MONTH ARRIVED.

WINDS BECAME STRONG OFFSHORE AS A WEEK-LONG CLOUDY SPELL SET IN.

AFTER THE COLD SNAP REACHED ITS CLIMAX ON DECEMBER 24, WINDS GRADUALLY VEERED.

FRESH TO STRONG EASTERLY WINDS GAVE RISE TO A CLOUDY AND WINDY CHRISTMAS DAY WITH PATCHES OF LIGHT RAIN.

AS THE LOWER ATMOSPHERE CONTINUED TO MOISTEN UP, RAIN THICKENED AND BECAME CONTINUOUS ON DECEMBER 26.

THE DAY'S RAINFALL OF 23.0 MILLIMETRES MADE IT THE WETTEST BOXING DAY ON RECORD.

EVEN THOUGH RAIN CEASED EARLY NEXT MORNING, CONDITIONS REMAINED RATHER HUMID WITH MIST AND FOG LINGERING OVER THE COASTAL WATERS FOR TWO DAYS UNDER LIGHT WIND CONDITIONS.

VISIBILITY INSIDE THE HARBOUR WAS DOWN TO 900METRES AT ONE STAGE ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 28.

/FRESHENING EASTERLIES .....

FRESHENING EASTERLIES ON DECEMBER 29 EVENTUALLY CLEARED AWAY THE LOW-LYING MIST BUT PERSISTENT RAIN RETURNED.

RAIN EASED OFF ON DECEMBER 30 AS DRIER AIR ASSOCIATED WITH A MODERATE NORTHEAST MONSOON BROUGHT AN IMPROVEMENT IN WEATHER.

THE NIGHT WAS SLIGHTLY COOLER AS A RESULT, BUT THE RETURN OF SUNNY SKIES ENSURED A MILD DAY ON DECEMBER 31.

NO TROPICAL CYCLONE ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED IN DECEMBER OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA FOLLOWING THE DISSIPATION OF TROPICAL DEPRESSION GAY NEAR THE RYUKYU ISLANDS ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 30.

NO AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED IN THE MONTH AS A RESULT OF POOR WEATHER.

DETAILS OF THE ISSUANCE/HOISTING AND CANCELLATION/LOWERING OF VARIOUS WARNINGS/SIGNALS IN THE MONTH ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.1. MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN DECEMBER

WARNINGS / SIGNALS	EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME	
STRONG MONSOON SIGNALS	DEC 3 2300 - DEC 4 0630	
	DEC 23 0800 - DEC 24 0300	
	DEC 25 0930 - DEC 26 2130	
FIRE DANGER WARNINGS		
	YELLOW	DEC 6 0000 - DEC 8 2315
		DEC 19 0600 - DEC 21 0600
		DEC 25 0600 - DEC 25 1800
	RED	DEC 1 0000 - DEC 2 1645
		DEC 24 0625 - DEC 25 0600

/TABLE 1.2 .....

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TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - DECEMBER  
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TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	151.6 HOURS ; 29.9 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	10.00 MJ/SQM ; 2.03 MJ/SQM BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	66.4 MM ; 39.1 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	61 PER CENT ; 12 PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	77 PER CENT ; 9 PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	21.4 DEGREES ; 0.9 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	19.2 DEGREES ; 1.6 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	17.4 DEGREES ; 2.0 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	14.9 DEGREES ; 3.7 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	68.8 MM ; 42.7 MM BELOW NORMAL

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 53.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 311.807 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 177.083 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 30.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,150
REVERSAL OF LAF	+350
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 114.7 \*+0.0\* 18.1.1993

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.09 PCT	13 MONTHS	2402	5.50	101.13	4.46
1 MONTH	3.19 PCT	16 MONTHS	2405	5.50	101.08	4.70
3 MONTHS	3.46 PCT	19 MONTHS	2408	4.375	99.18	4.98
6 MONTHS	3.76 PCT	22 MONTHS	2411	4.625	99.12	5.20
12 MONTHS	4.35 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 11,399 MN

CLOSED 18 JANUARY 1993

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