



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

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SCHEME TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN WESTERN

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A REVISED SCHEME FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-WAY ROAD LINK BETWEEN SMITHFIELD AND POK FU LAM ROAD TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW AND TO COPE WITH THE INCREASE IN TRAFFIC UPON THE OPENING OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

THE PROPOSED WORKS WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A VEHICULAR UNDERPASS AND A PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY ACROSS POK FU LAM ROAD, AN ELEVATED STRUCTURE ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE NEW ROAD AND AN ELEVATED ROAD TO IMPROVE THE JUNCTIONS BETWEEN MOUNT DAVIS ROAD AND POK FU LAM ROAD.

IT IS EXPECTED THE WORKS WILL COMMENCE IN AUGUST 1994 AND BE COMPLETED IN JUNE 1997 FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF BELCHER BAY LINK AND ROCK HILL STREET EXTENSION.

THE SCHEME HAS BEEN FURTHER DEVELOPED SINCE IT WAS FIRST GAZETTED LAST OCTOBER.

THE MODIFICATIONS INCLUDE THE WESTWARD SHIFTING OF THE ALIGNMENT OF AN ELEVATED LINK BETWEEN POK FU LAM ROAD AND MOUNT DAVIS ROAD TO PRESERVE THE WOODLAND AND MOST OF THE GRAVES IN THE AREA.

THE FOOTWAY OUTSIDE KENNEDY TOWN PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL HAS BEEN WIDENED TO ACCOMMODATE LOADING AND UNLOADING ACTIVITIES AND THE EXISTING LAYBY AT POK FU LAM ROAD WILL BE RETAINED.

AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROJECT WAS CARRIED OUT AND APPROPRIATE NOISE MITIGATION MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS RECOMMENDED.

DURING CONSTRUCTION THE CONTRACTOR HAS TO OBSERVE CONDITIONS SET FOR THE CONTROL OF DUST, NOISE AND SITE RUN-OFF.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE/HONG KONG WEST.

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VIEWS ON PROPERTY PRICES

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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID HE HAS RECEIVED A LARGE BODY OF USEFUL OPINION AND PROPOSALS TO MODERATE PROPERTY PRICES AT MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS GROUPS IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

HE EXPRESSED HIS THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTION IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESS AND NOTED THAT THERE IS CERTAIN CONSENSUS AMONG THOSE WHOM HE MET THAT AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION LIES IN AN INCREASE IN LAND SUPPLY TO SATISFY DEMANDS IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

/"THERE ARE .....

"THERE ARE ALSO SOME POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS TO MINIMISE SPECULATION IN PRE-SALE OF FLATS IN THE INTEREST OF GENUINE HOME-BUYERS AND TO STRENGTHEN CONSUMER EDUCATION AND PROTECTION ON FLAT SUPPLY AND PRICE SITUATION."

MR EASON SAID THESE VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS TOGETHER WITH THOSE EXPRESSED IN THE MEDIA WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE TASK FORCE IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING A PACKAGE OF MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE PROPERTY MARKET SITUATION.

HE EMPHASISED THAT THE TASK FORCE IS STILL EXAMINING VIGOROUSLY THE PROS AND CONS OF EACH AND EVERY AVAILABLE OPTION AND HAS NOT YET REACHED ANY CONCLUSION.

"OUR APPROACH IS TO ASSESS THE SITUATION CAREFULLY AND OBJECTIVELY BEFORE WE COME UP WITH A SENSIBLE AND REASONABLE RESPONSE. IT REMAINS OUR TARGET TO COMPLETE THE TASK FORCE'S WORK BY NEXT MONTH," MR EASON SAID.

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REGULATION ON ELECTION NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS TO BE GAZETTED  
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THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (PROCEDURE) (GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES) REGULATION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON FRIDAY (MAY 20), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE REGULATION SETS OUT THE NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMING DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

THE REQUIREMENTS FOLLOW THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS: THE NOMINATION PAPER FOR EACH DISTRICT BOARD OR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE MUST BE SUBSCRIBED BY 10 ELECTORS REGISTERED IN THE CONSTITUENCY CONCERNED, AND THE AMOUNT OF ELECTION DEPOSIT IN RESPECT OF EACH CANDIDATE IS \$3,000 FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, AND \$5,000 FOR THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE 1995 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS WOULD BE REVIEWED LATER.

"THE REGULATION IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 25," HE SAID.

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LIQUIDITY ADJUSTMENT FACILITY BID AND OFFER RATES GO UP

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THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES THAT, IN LINE WITH THE RISE IN DISCOUNT RATE AND THE FED FUNDS RATE BY HALF OF A PERCENTAGE POINT IN THE U.S., IT HAS RAISED ITS LIQUIDITY ADJUSTMENT FACILITY (LAF) BID AND OFFER RATES FROM 2 PER CENT AND 4 PER CENT TO 2.5 PER CENT AND 4.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

THE BID AND OFFER RATES EFFECTIVELY SERVE AS THE FLOOR AND CEILING FOR OVERNIGHT INTEREST RATES IN THE HONG KONG INTERBANK MARKET.

"THE RISE IN LAF RATES MIRRORS THE RISE IN DISCOUNT RATE IN THE UNITED STATES. CHANGES IN BEST LENDING RATES WILL BE UP TO INDIVIDUAL BANKS TO DETERMINE.

"THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS WILL SIMILARLY DECIDE ON DEPOSIT INTEREST RATES WHEN THE COMMITTEE MEETS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY SAID.

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PASSENGER DEMAND ALONG NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR CLOSELY MONITORED

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JOINT EFFORTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (MTRC) TO CLOSELY MONITOR THE MTR DEMANDS AND THE FLOWS ON OTHER TRANSPORT MODES ALONG NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR, AND TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT CAPACITY TO MEET THE DEMAND.

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF TELFORD GARDENS EXTENSION AND MTRC HEADQUARTERS REDEVELOPMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR RAFAEL HUI, SAID PATRONAGE ON THE NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR HAD ALWAYS BEEN HIGH IN THE SOUTHBOUND DIRECTION DURING THE MORNING RUSH HOUR.

AND THE PASSENGER TRAFFIC ALONG THIS CRITICAL SECTION IS FORECAST TO CONTINUE TO GROW STEADILY, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE MTRC IMPLEMENTED PRICING MEASURES TO SPREAD THE DEMAND BETWEEN THE TWO MTR CROSS HARBOUR LINKS AS WELL AS OVER A LONGER INTERVAL WITHIN THE MORNING PEAK HOURS.

"MORE RECENTLY, THE CARRYING CAPACITY ALONG THE SOUTHBOUND NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM 77,500 TO 80,000 PER HOUR THROUGH THE OPERATION OF AN ADDITIONAL TRIP STARTING FROM MAY 2.

"THIS HAS BROUGHT CONSIDERABLE RELIEF TO THE MTR CONGESTION ALONG NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR," HE SAID.

ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT, MR HUI SAID COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLANS HAD BEEN DRAWN UP TO COPE WITH THE PASSENGER DEMAND.

/SINCE 1990, .....

SINCE 1990, THE AIR-CONDITIONED BUS NETWORK HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO ATTRACT PASSENGERS WHO USED TO TAKE THE MTR TO TRAVEL TO WORK.

AS AT TODAY, 35 BUS ROUTES USING 134 AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES ARE RUNNING FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES AND KOWLOON TO SOUTH KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND TO RELIEVE THE PASSENGER DEMAND FOR MTR ALONG THE NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR.

"FIVE NEW BUS ROUTES INCLUDING FOUR CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTES ARE PLANNED TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE COMING WEEKS," HE SAID.

ON THE EXPANSION OF TELFORD GARDENS TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE, MR HUI SAID THIS WAS REQUIRED NOT ONLY TO MEET THE EXISTING SHORTFALL IN CAPACITY, BUT ALSO TO CATER FOR THE NEW DEMANDS FOR TRANSPORT FACILITIES ARISING FROM THE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT WHICH REPRESENTS A HIGHER UTILISATION OF THE SITE.

HE SAID THE PROPOSED NEW TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE WOULD INCORPORATE A NEW BUS TERMINUS WHICH WOULD BE SEPARATED FROM THE RELOCATED TAXI AND GREEN MINIBUS STANDS TO ENHANCE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY.

A COVERED GRADE-SEPARATED PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY WOULD BE BUILT LINKING THE BUS TERMINUS, THE TAXI AND GREEN MINIBUS STANDS AND THE SHOPPING HALLS OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENT. THIS WALKWAY WOULD REMOVE THE PRESENT CONFLICTS BETWEEN PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR MOVEMENTS.

NEW ACCESS POINTS AT GROUND LEVEL DIRECT FROM TAI YIP STREET WOULD BE ADDED TO REDUCE TRAFFIC VOLUME AT THE PODIUM LEVEL SO AS TO FACILITATE SMOOTH TRAFFIC CIRCULATION TO AND FROM THE EXPANDED INTERCHANGE.

"I AM FULLY CONFIDENT THAT THROUGH JOINT EFFORTS OF MTRC, THE OTHER RELEVANT TRANSPORT OPERATORS AND THE GOVERNMENT, WE CAN MANAGE TO MEET THE PASSENGER DEMAND FOR THE MTR AND THE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT SERVICES SATISFACTORILY UNTIL THE NEW TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES AND SERVICES UNDER PLANNING ARE COMPLETED IN THE COMING YEARS," MR HUI SAID.

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#### PROVISION OF LORRY PARKING SPACES AT WESTERN RECLAMATION

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IN RESPONSE TO LORRY DRIVERS' CONCERN ON THE REDUCTION IN THE SIZE OF A POTENTIAL LORRY PARKING SITE IN THE WESTERN RECLAMATION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CLARIFIED THAT THE SITE WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR THE PARKING OF ABOUT 120 VEHICLES.

HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE POTENTIAL HAZARD OF ON-STREET PARKING OF LPG DANGEROUS GOODS VEHICLES (WHICH IS ALSO ONE TYPE OF GOODS VEHICLES), ABOUT 30 SPACES HAVE TO BE SET ASIDE AND PHYSICALLY SEGREGATED FOR SAFETY REASONS TO ALLOW THESE VEHICLES TO BE PARKED OFF-STREET.

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A PORTION OF THE SITE HAS TO BE ALIENATED AS WELL FOR THE PROVISION OF A BARGE LOADING POINT TO FACILITATE PROGRESS OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WORKS.

AS A RESULT, THE REMAINING SITE AVAILABLE FOR PARKING OF OTHER GOODS VEHICLES WILL PROVIDE ABOUT 60 TO 70 SPACES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR ALTERNATIVE LORRY PARKING SPACES SINCE JULY LAST YEAR FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WORKS, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO OBLIGATION OF A ONE-FOR-ONE REPROVISIONING.

PLANNING FOR ADDITIONAL LORRY PARKING SITE IS STILL CONTINUING. IN THE COMING MONTHS, THREE MORE PARKING SITES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT, PROVIDING ABOUT 270 OFF-STREET LORRY PARKING SPACES.

HE SAID AS THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS WITH LORRY DRIVERS, DRIVERS SHOULD NOT TAKE DRASTIC ACTION THAT WOULD AFFECT THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

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## II GIRLS TRANSFERRED TO SWD

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, HAD ORDERED THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF TWO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT GIRLS, AU YEUNG LING-LING AND TONG HIU-KWAN.

THE TWO HAVE BEEN HELD IN DETENTION, RATHER THAN BEING REPATRIATED TO CHINA, SO THAT THEY CAN GIVE EVIDENCE IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL NOW SCHEDULED FOR JULY THIS YEAR.

THE GOVERNOR HAS DIRECTED THAT THE TWO GIRLS BE RELEASED FROM DETENTION INTO THE CARE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT UNTIL THEY CAN GIVE THEIR EVIDENCE AGAINST DEFENDANTS ACCUSED OF ABUSING THEM WHEN THEY FIRST ARRIVED IN HONG KONG.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE NORMAL PRACTICE WAS TO REPATRIATE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS QUICKLY BUT WHERE THEY WERE REQUIRED TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, THIS WAS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE.

THE GOVERNMENT TRIES TO KEEP THE PERIOD OF DETENTION SHORT BUT THERE ARE SOMETIMES DELAYS IN BRINGING CASES TO TRIAL.

THIS IS AN EXCEPTIONAL CASE IN THAT THE TWO GIRLS HAVE BEEN HELD IN DETENTION FOR NINE MONTHS.

THE GOVERNOR HAS DECIDED THAT THE DETENTION OF THESE TWO GIRLS IS UNACCEPTABLE.

/IN ADDITION .....

IN ADDITION TO ORDERING THEIR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, THE GOVERNOR HAS ASKED THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO REVIEW THE PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THAT CASES INVOLVING DETAINED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE HEARD QUICKLY AND THAT SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH JUVENILES IN SUCH CASES ARE INTRODUCED.

HE HAS ASKED FOR A REPORT WITHIN ONE MONTH.

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#### EPD MAKES PERFORMANCE PLEDGES

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT PUBLISHES ITS PERFORMANCE PLEDGES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

LAUNCHING THE PUBLICATION, THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, SAID: "THE DEPARTMENT'S MISSION IS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY BY PREVENTING THE CREATION OF NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AS WELL AS STOPPING THOSE THAT EXIST ALREADY.

"IN THIS WAY WE WORK TO PROVIDE A MORE PLEASANT AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG."

HE EXPLAINED THAT PERFORMANCE PLEDGES WERE MOST RELEVANT TO SITUATIONS WHERE A DIRECT SERVICE WAS PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC AND THE DELIVERY OF THAT SERVICE WAS MORE OR LESS WITHIN THE CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS POSSIBLE, KNOWING THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE, TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO A CERTAIN LEVEL OF SERVICE AND TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THIS.

MUCH OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK DOES NOT FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY AND IN THE PAST THE DEPARTMENT HAD INSTEAD ADOPTED THE PRACTICE OF MAKING PUBLIC THE GOALS TO WHICH IT IS WORKING.

FOR EXAMPLE WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES; ITS PLANS AND PROGRAMMES FOR ACHIEVING THESE GOALS - FOR EXAMPLE THE 1989 WHITE PAPER "POLLUTION IN HONG KONG: A TIME TO ACT"; AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH PROGRESS IS BEING MADE - FOR EXAMPLE PUBLISHED REPORTS ON MARINE WATER QUALITY.

THE DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO EXTEND FURTHER ITS PUBLICATION OF SUCH MATERIAL SO AS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY A CLEAR IDEA OF THE OBJECTIVES THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN STRIVING TO ACHIEVE, THE PROGRAMMES FOR DOING THIS AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE OBJECTIVES ARE BEING ACHIEVED.

IN PARALLEL WITH THIS THE PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGES PROVIDES A FOCUS ON THOSE SERVICES PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE PUBLIC.

#### THE PLEDGES INVOLVE:

A COMMITMENT TO INVESTIGATE IMMEDIATELY ALL COMPLAINTS INVOLVING HEALTH THREATS, AND TO RESPOND TO OTHER COMPLAINTS AND ENQUIRIES WITHIN SEVEN TO 10 DAYS.

A COMMITMENT TO MAKE PUBLIC EVERY MONTH DETAILS OF ANTI-POLLUTION PROSECUTION CASES AND AIR QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS WHILE INFORMATION RELATING TO BEACH WATER QUALITY WILL BE ISSUED EVERY TWO WEEKS DURING THE BATHING SEASON.

A COMMITMENT TO SPECIFIC RESPONSE TIMES, RANGING FROM 10 DAYS TO 28 DAYS, TO APPLICATIONS FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF PERMITS/LICENCES/LABELS.

A COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE STRATEGIC LANDFILLS WILL BE OPEN FOR DISPOSAL OF REFUSE EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR FOR AT LEAST 10 HOURS EACH DAY, WHILE THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE WILL PROVIDE A 24-HOUR SERVICE, AND RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO CALLS FROM ANY GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTRES FOR URGENT ASSISTANCE TO DEAL WITH SIGNIFICANT SPILLAGES OF CHEMICALS OR CHEMICAL WASTE.

"OUR PERFORMANCE PLEDGES WILL BE MONITORED AND THE RESULTS OF THIS MONITORING EXERCISE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC EVERY YEAR," DR REED SAID.

"COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE AND THE WAY IN WHICH THESE SERVICES ARE DELIVERED, OR ANY OTHER CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE MIGHT ACHIEVE A MORE HEALTHY AND PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, IF ANYBODY IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE WAY IN WHICH HIS COMPLAINT HAS BEEN DEALT WITH, OR IF WE HAVE FALLEN DOWN ON ANY OTHER OF OUR PLEDGES, I WOULD BE GLAD TO KNOW ABOUT IT DIRECTLY SO THAT SOMETHING CAN BE DONE TO PUT THINGS RIGHT," DR REED CONCLUDED.

INFORMATION LEAFLETS LISTING OUT THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

- \* THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS: 28TH FLOOR, SOUTHOORN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.
- \* ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE CENTRE: 221 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI.
- \* LOCAL CONTROL OFFICE (TERRITORY EAST): NINTH FLOOR, TOWER I, WORLD TRADE SQUARE, 123 HOI BUN ROAD, KWUN TONG.
- \* LOCAL CONTROL OFFICE (TERRITORY SOUTH): 45TH FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.
- \* LOCAL CONTROL OFFICE (TERRITORY NORTH): 105-9 GROUND FLOOR, ON WO HOUSE, TAI WO ESTATE, TAI PO.
- \* LOCAL CONTROL OFFICE (TERRITORY WEST): SUITE UG01-02, BLOCK 2, HO FAI COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 222-224 SAI LAU KOK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.
- \* LOCAL CONTROL OFFICE (URBAN WEST): EIGHTH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT OFFICE, 38 SAI LAU KOK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.
- \* ALL DISTRICT OFFICES.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

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CONTRACT SIGNED FOR UPGRADING SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT  
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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SIGNED A \$7.3 MILLION CONTRACT TO UPGRADE THE SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES IN THE SAI KUNG SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT.

THE CONTRACT FORMS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM SEWERAGE MASTER PLAN FOR THE PORT SHELTER AREA.

IT COVERS THE MODIFICATION OF TWO AERATION TANKS TO ENHANCE DENITRIFICATION EFFICIENCY AND OTHER MINOR ALTERATION WORKS INSIDE THE COMPRESSOR HOUSE AND SEPTIC WASTE RECEPTION UNIT.

THE WORKS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SATURDAY FOR COMPLETION IN JULY 1995. BY THEN, THE EFFLUENT QUALITY AND OPERATION CONDITIONS OF THE PLANT WILL HAVE BEEN IMPROVED.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT), MR TSE HON-SUM, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTRACTOR, YICK HING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

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SAI KUNG LOT TO LET  
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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LOT IN AREA 3, TSEUNG KWAN O.

THE 1,380-SQUARE-METRE LOT IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 3.

TENDER FORMS, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, SAI KUNG; THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

TENDER PLANS CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE OFFICES.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

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ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS  
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EVERY MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY AND CAPACITY TO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, MRS PATTEN SAID.

"AFTER ALL, WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR WASTE IN SOME FORM OR OTHER, BE IT AS CONSUMERS, AS HOUSEHOLDERS, AT WORK OR AT PLAY," SHE SAID AT "PLANT FOR THE EARTH" CLOSING CEREMONY TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SHE CALLED ON EVERYONE TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE THEY ACT.

MRS PATTEN PRAISED FRIENDS OF THE EARTH FOR HELPING TO GREEN THE TERRITORY BY ORGANISING THE EVENT.

THE PLANTING ACTIVITY WAS ARRANGED IN COUNTRY PARKS LAST YEAR. WITH THE HELP OF THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR, THEY HAVE EXTENDED THE TASK TO THE ERODED AREAS NEAR MUI WO, LANTAU.

"IT SAYS A GREAT DEAL FOR THE COMMITMENT OF PARTICIPANTS THAT THEY UNDERTOOK THE CLIMBING AND SCRAMBLING OVER THE HILLSIDES TO GET TO THESE AREAS WITH THEIR VALUABLE SEEDLINGS," SHE SAID.

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DR WOU TCHONG HONG JOINS CONDUCT COUNCIL  
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT DR WOU TCHONG HONG OF THE HONG KONG AIDED SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN ELECTED TO THE COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN EDUCATION (CPCE).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID ONE OF THE TEACHERS' UNIONS SEATS ON THE COUNCIL WAS UNFILLED BECAUSE THE TWO CONTESTANTS RECEIVED THE SAME NUMBER OF VOTES IN LAST MONTH'S ELECTION.

THE DEPARTMENT TODAY RECEIVED NOTIFICATION FROM ONE OF THE CONTESTANTS, MR LEE SEE-YUEN OF THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION, TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ELECTION.

DR WOU WAS THEREFORE ELECTED UNCONTESTED AND JOINED THE COUNCIL WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

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NEW LOCAL EMPLOYMENT OFFICE IN OPERATION SOON

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE WAN CHAI AND CHAI WAN OFFICES OF THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WILL MERGE NEXT WEEK TO PROVIDE MORE EFFICIENT SERVICES TO EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS.

THE NEW OFFICE, WHICH HAS BEEN NAMED THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (ISLAND BRANCH), WILL COME INTO OPERATION NEXT MONDAY (MAY 23).

SITUATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR AT CENTRE POINT, 181-185 GLOUCESTER ROAD IN WAN CHAI, THE NEW OFFICE WILL OFFER EMPLOYMENT SERVICE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND OUTLYING ISLANDS, EXCEPT SOUTHERN DISTRICT SUCH AS AREAS SOUTHWARDS OF TAI TAM HARBOUR AND WATERFALL BAY.

PUBLIC ENQUIRIES TO THE NEW OFFICE CAN BE MADE FROM MONDAY ON TEL 591 1316 AND 591 1318 OR BY FAX AT 591 6519 AND 591 6262.

TO FACILITATE THE REMOVAL OF OFFICES, THE OPERATION OF WAN CHAI AND CHAI WAN OFFICES WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM NOON TO 5.30 PM ON FRIDAY (MAY 20) AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAY (MAY 21).

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75 CAUGHT IN OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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A 24-HOUR OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION STARTING FROM 5 AM YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) TILL 5 AM TODAY MOUNTED BY THE POLICE AND THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF 75 PERSONS.

THE OPERATION WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING EFFORT TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

THE 74 PERSONS ARRESTED BY THE POLICE HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT. THOSE FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED.

ONE WAS ARRESTED BY IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"OUR LATEST OPERATION SHOULD DRIVE HOME THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY. ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE IS ONLY CHEATING ONESELF," HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT ON MOVE

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THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING THE TRADE MARKS AND PATENTS REGISTRIES, WILL MOVE TO THE 24TH AND 25TH FLOORS, WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI ON SATURDAY (MAY 21).

THEIR PRESENT PREMISES ARE LOCATED ON 15TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, CURVED BLOCK, TSIM SHA TSUI.

BECAUSE OF THE MOVE, THE TRADE MARKS AND PATENTS REGISTRIES WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR GENERAL BUSINESS FROM 12.30 PM ON FRIDAY (MAY 20).

BUT IT WILL REMAIN OPEN SOLELY FOR RECEIVING THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF DOCUMENTS:

- \* TRADE MARK APPLICATIONS CLAIMING CONVENTION PRIORITY;
- \* NOTICES OF OPPOSITION TO ADVERTISED TRADE MARK APPLICATIONS, AND ANY DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FILED IN CONNECTION WITH OPPOSITION PROCEEDINGS OR RECTIFICATION PROCEEDINGS WHICH HAVE ALREADY STARTED;
- \* PATENT APPLICATIONS FILED WITHIN FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF GRANT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OR FROM ITS TAKING EFFECT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM; AND
- \* COPIES OF DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE COURT RELATING TO TRADE MARKS REMOVAL/RECTIFICATION AND APPEAL PROCEEDINGS.

FROM MAY 23, THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT AND ITS REGISTRIES WILL RESUME FULL SERVICES AT THE NEW ADDRESS.

THE NEW ENQUIRY NUMBER WILL BE 961 6868.

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/12 .....

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
	-----	-----	-----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,576	0930	-129
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,538	1000	-199
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+501
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+662	1200	+703
LAF TODAY	+300	1500	+662
		1600	+662
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER		TWI 125.0 *+0.0*	18.5.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.77	18 MONTHS	2511	4.15	97.94	5.67
1 MONTH	3.89	24 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.63	6.10
3 MONTHS	4.27	29 MONTHS	3610	4.20	95.27	6.42
6 MONTHS	4.75	32 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.48	6.56
12 MONTHS	5.26	35 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.87	6.69
TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 40,251 MN						
CLOSED 18 MAY 1994						

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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

## SUPPLEMENT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

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GOVERNMENT ADDRESSES PROPERTY PRICES POSITIVELY

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HIGH RESIDENTIAL PRICES WERE A CAUSE OF CONCERN AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS ADDRESSING THIS CONCERN URGENTLY AND POSITIVELY, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A MOTION DEBATE ON LAND SUPPLY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR EASON SAID GOVERNMENT HAD THE URGE TO DO AND WAS DOING WHAT THE MOTION URGED IT TO DO.

HE SAID THE TASK FORCE ON LAND SUPPLY AND PROPERTY WOULD CONCLUDE IT WORKS NEXT MONTH.

MR EASON SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CURRENTLY REVIEWING YET AGAIN THE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND THERE WAS A GOOD PROSPECT OF AN ADDITIONAL 30 HECTARES OF LAND BEING MADE AVAILABLE BEFORE 1997 TO MEET THE NEW REQUIREMENT.

HE SAID OTHER POSSIBLE SITES WERE ALSO BEING EXAMINED.

THE AIM OF THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALWAYS BEEN TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT LAND TO MEET CLEARLY IDENTIFIED PUBLIC HOUSING DEMAND AND THIS WAS REVIEWED REGULARLY, HE SAID.

"FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY ADJUSTED INCOME LIMITS AND CRITERIA IN 1992 AND 1993, THE GOVERNMENT QUICKLY FOUND 49 HECTARES OF EXTRA LAND TO MEET THE ADDITIONAL DEMAND,"

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE LEVEL OF DEMAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING WAS A CONSTANTLY MOVING TARGET WHICH CHANGED BECAUSE OF SUCH FACTORS AS POPULATION AND INCOME GROWTH, REDEVELOPMENT AND CLEARANCE PROGRAMME, PRICES AND RENTS OF PRIVATE HOUSING ETC.

"BUT IT DOES NOT MEAN THE GOVERNMENT HAS UNDER-PROVIDED LAND FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OR INTENDS TO DO SO JUST BECAUSE DEMAND INCREASES AND NEW LAND HAS TO BE PROVIDED.

"THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT BETWEEN 1988/89 AND 1993/94, OVER 180 HECTARES OF LAND WERE ALLOCATED FOR PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING AND ASSISTED HOUSING, THAT IS, AN AVERAGE OF 30.5 HECTARES PER ANNUM.

"BY COMPARISON, AN AVERAGE OF 17 HECTARES PER ANNUM WERE GRANTED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD," HE SAID.

GIVEN THAT LAND AND THE RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE HAD TO BE PRODUCED AND THE LEAD TIME REQUIRED, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY SHOULD CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF IMPROVING OUTPUT, FOR EXAMPLE, BY INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY OF LAND USE AND ADVANCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SITES ALREADY EXISTED, HE SAID.

TURNING TO LAND DISPOSAL, MR EASON SAID THE LAND COMMISSION HAD IN FACT SHOWN ITSELF TO BE FLEXIBLE AND SENSITIVE TO HONG KONG'S NEED FOR LAND TO SUPPORT IT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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"THE LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME HAS EXCEEDED THE 50 HACTARES LIMIT IN EVERY SINGLE YEAR SINCE THE COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1985. IT HAS ALSO AGREED TO SET ASIDE AN ADDITIONAL FIVE HACTARES FOR SUPPLEMENTARY DISPOSAL IF NECESSARY.

MR EASON POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL REASONS WHY THE DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN SITES MIGHT SLOP FROM ONE FINANCIAL YEAR TO THE NEXT, AND THESE INCLUDED THE LACK OF INTEREST SHOWN BY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS OR UNAVOIDABLE DELAYS IN LAND FORMATION OR SERVICING.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO REVIEWING THE DENSITY OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNED FOR SOME OF THE SITES TO BE DISPOSED OF IN THE LATTER PART OF THE YEAR AND FOR FUTURE SITES TO SEE WHETHER HIGHER DENSITIES CAN BE ACHIEVED.

MR EASON STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT OPERATE A HIGH LAND PRICE POLICY.

"THE MARKET DETERMINES LAND PRICES, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT.

"THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF DELIBERATELY WITHHOLDING LAND SUPPLY IN ORDER TO JACK UP THE PRICE." HE SAID.

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SPEECH ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT DEBATE

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THE FOLLOWING IS A SPEECH BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, ON THE MOTION DEBATE ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

MR PRESIDENT,

I PROPOSE TO COMMENT FIRST ON THE ORIGINAL MOTION AND THEN ON THE AMENDED MOTION.

I WOULD FIRST OF ALL LIKE TO STATE THAT THERE WAS NO NUCLEAR EMERGENCY AT DAYA BAY IN APRIL. THE PROBLEM LEADING TO THE SHUT DOWN OF UNIT ONE OF THE PLANT WAS IN THE CONVENTIONAL ISLAND. THE PROBLEM WAS NOT CLASSIFIED ON THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR EVENTS SCALE. IT WAS NOT A REPORTABLE EVENT AND HAD ABSOLUTELY NO SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE. WE OBTAINED SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO IDENTIFY THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM AND CONCLUDE THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO TAKE ANY ACTION OF ANY KIND. IN FACT, MR PRESIDENT, THERE HAS BEEN NO EVENT SINCE THE GUANGDONG NUCLEAR POWER STATION WAS COMMISSIONED WHICH REQUIRES THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ANY RESPONSE OF ANY DESCRIPTION.

/IN RESPONDING .....

IN RESPONDING TO THE ORIGINAL MOTION, I MUST EXPLAIN WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY DOING AND WHAT WE HAVE DONE. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S DAYA BAY CONTINGENCY PLAN WAS PREPARED IN MAY 1989. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE CONDUCTED TWO FULL COMMAND POST EXERCISES TO TEST AND TO IMPROVE THE PLAN, IN NOVEMBER 1990 AND IN MAY 1993. ON EACH OCCASION, WE MODIFIED AND IMPROVED OUR CONTINGENCY PLAN IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESULTS OF THE TESTS AND THE ADVICE WE RECEIVED FROM INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS WHO OBSERVED HOW THE PLAN WORKED. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC ARE AWARE OF THE CONTINGENCY PLAN, IN AUGUST 1993, WE PUBLISHED A TOTAL OF 156,000 COPIES OF A LEAFLET DESCRIBING THE OUTLINE OF THE PLAN. IN DECEMBER 1993, 30,000 COPIES OF A BOOKLET WERE PUBLISHED, DESCRIBING THE PLAN IN MORE DETAIL. BOTH THE LEAFLET AND THE BOOKLET WERE PUBLISHED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE. A FURTHER 120,000 COPIES OF THE LEAFLET AND 200,000 COPIES OF THE BOOKLET WERE PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR. IN TOTAL, OVER HALF OF A MILLION COPIES OF THE LEAFLET AND THE BOOKLET HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC TO INFORM THEM ABOUT THE DAYA BAY CONTINGENCY PLAN.

IN MARCH THIS YEAR, WE, TOGETHER WITH THE HONG KONG NUCLEAR INVESTMENT COMPANY, MADE A PUBLIC PRESENTATION ON NUCLEAR SAFETY AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING TO THE MEDIA. WE DISPLAYED MUCH OF THE PORTABLE EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD BE USED IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF THE PLAN BEING ACTIVATED. OFFICERS FROM FIVE OF THE 34 DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED IN THE PLAN WERE ALSO AVAILABLE TO ANSWER DETAILED QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR ROLES IN THE CONTINGENCY PLAN. LATER THAT MONTH, WE HELD A SIMILAR PRESENTATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS PANEL OF THIS COUNCIL. THE FULL TEXT OF THE DAYA BAY CONTINGENCY PLAN WAS PUBLISHED IN APRIL.

WE'VE PUBLISHED AND WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH IN FULL DETAILS OF OUR CONTINGENCY PLAN AND OF NUCLEAR POWER IN GENERAL. WE WISH TO MAKE OUR CONTINGENCY PLAN AND OUR ARRANGEMENTS AS TRANSPARENT AS POSSIBLE. IN VIEW OF THE COMMENTS FROM OUR HONOURABLE MEMBERS WE CLEARLY HAVE SOME WAY TO GO. BUT WE HAVE BEGUN. WE MUST INCREASE OUR EFFORTS. HOWEVER, MR PRESIDENT, I CAN ASSURE HONOURABLE MEMBERS THAT OUR CONTINGENCY PLAN IS FUNDAMENTALLY SOUND.

THE ORIGINAL MOTION CALLS ON THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO PREPARE A PROPER CONTINGENCY PLAN. MR PRESIDENT, WE HAVE DONE SO, AND WE HAVE SENT COPIES TO THIS CHAMBER. MEMBERS SHOULD BE REASSURED THAT I DON'T INTEND TO READ FROM THERE THE CONTINGENCY PLAN. IN THE INTEREST OF BREVITY, MR CHAIRMAN, I'D LIKE TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS POSED BY HONOURABLE MEMBERS SIMPLY BY REFERRING TO A FEW CHAPTERS IN OUR PLAN. THIS I THINK SET OUT IN DETAIL HOW WE WOULD RESPOND TO THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS. IN CHAPTER THREE, WE DID SET OUT IN DETAIL THE NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NUCLEAR INCIDENT OR ACCIDENT OCCUR AT GUANGDONG NUCLEAR POWER STATION. IN CHAPTER FOUR, WE DESCRIBE OUR RADIATION MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES. IN CHAPTER FIVE, WE DEAL WITH HOW WE WOULD EXPLAIN TO THE PUBLIC ANY EVENTS WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE AT GUANGDONG NUCLEAR POWER STATION. IN CHAPTER SEVEN, WE DESCRIBE HOW WE WOULD MONITOR PEOPLE COMING ACROSS THE BORDER AND HOW WE WOULD HAVE MONITORING CENTRES AND DE-CONTAMINATION CENTRES. IN CHAPTER EIGHT, FURTHER BORDER CONTROL MEASURES ARE SET OUT. IN CHAPTER NINE, COUNTER MEASURES DEALING WITH FOOD AND WATER. IN CHAPTER 10, WE DEAL WITH DISPOSAL OF RADIOLOGICALLY CONTAMINATED WASTE. AND IN CHAPTER 14, WE DEAL WITH CROSS BORDER AND EXTERNAL LIAISON AND ASSISTANCE. I'M PLEASED THERE IS A NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE REFERRED TO THE DANGERS OF INGESTION BECAUSE THIS REPRESENTS THE MOST CREDIBLE POSSIBILITY WHICH ALL THE EXPERT ADVICE WE MIGHT FACE. I'M ALSO PLEASED TO REPORT THAT OUR CONTINGENCY PLAN DEALS WITH THIS RISK IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL. WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROTECT OUR FOOD SUPPLY. WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROTECT OUR WATER SUPPLY. WE WILL BE ABLE TO SCREEN PEOPLE COMING INTO HONG KONG FROM CONTAMINATED AREAS. MR PRESIDENT, ALL OF THESE DETAILS ARE SET OUT IN OUR CONTINGENCY PLAN.

THE ORIGINAL MOTION ALSO REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO INDOOR SHELTERING MEASURES. IN DRAFTING OUR CONTINGENCY PLAN, WE CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY THE NEED FOR SHELTERING. THIS NEED WAS FIRST ADDRESSED IN A 1987 REPORT, PREPARED FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BY EXPERTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM'S ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY, ON HOW BEST OUR CONTINGENCY PLANNING SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT. THE ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY ADVISED THAT AT 25 KM FROM THE REACTOR THERE IS A CONSENSUS OF INTERNATIONAL OPINION THAT THERE SHOULD ONLY EXIST A NEED FOR MONITORING AND PERHAPS CONTROL OF FOODSTUFFS. PLANS FOR EVACUATION AND SHELTERING ARE NOT GENERALLY CONSIDERED NECESSARY AT THIS DISTANCE. THIS REPORT PREDATED OUR CONTINGENCY PLAN AND WE TOOK ITS ADVICE INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN PREPARING OUR DAYA BAY CONTINGENCY PLAN.

THE CONTINGENCY PLAN TAKES A CAUTIOUS APPROACH ON SHELTERING. WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE NEED FOR SHELTERING, AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE ONLY, APPLIES ONLY TO PING CHAU, WHICH IS SOME 13 KM AWAY FROM THE GUANGDONG NUCLEAR POWER STATION. IN REACHING THIS DECISION, WE HAVE FOLLOWED INTERNATIONAL ADVICE AND PRACTICE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CO-ORDINATOR OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY STATED PUBLICLY IN MAY LAST YEAR -

'NO COUNTRY HAS EVER SEEN A NEED TO DEVELOP PLANS OR EXERCISE A CAPABILITY TO EVACUATE OR SHELTER POPULATION AS A RESULT OF A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT, BEYOND 16 KM.'

MORE RECENTLY, A PAST PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, WHO WAS INVITED TO HONG KONG ON A PRIVATELY-SPONSORED VISIT, STATED AFTER GOING TO DAYA BAY -

'WE WENT AWAY SATISFIED THAT THEY FOLLOWED THE IAEA RECOMMENDATIONS IN THEIR EMERGENCY PLANS. YOU CAN'T DO ANY BETTER THAN THAT.'

MEMBERS MAY LIKE TO KNOW OF THE SHELTERING ZONES IN OTHER PLACES. IN CANADA SHELTERING IS REQUIRED UP TO 10 KILOMETRES FROM THE PLANT. IN FRANCE IT IS ALSO 10 KILOMETRES. IN GERMANY, 10 KILOMETRES; ITALY, 5 KILOMETRES; JAPAN, 10 KILOMETRES; SPAIN, 10 KILOMETRES; SWEDEN, 15 KILOMETRES; SWITZERLAND, 20 KILOMETRES AND THE UNITED STATES, 16 KILOMETRES. IN HONG KONG WE HAVE ADOPTED A FIGURE OF 20 KILOMETRES. ACCORDING TO ALL INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS HONG KONG HAS ADOPTED A PRUDENT AND CONSERVATIVE MEASURE.

MEMBERS WILL BE AWARE THAT, THIS COMING FRIDAY MORNING, TWO EXPERTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM'S ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITIES WILL BE MEETING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS PANEL. THEY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO HONG KONG SPECIFICALLY TO DISCUSS CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND TO ANSWER MEMBERS' CONCERNS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THESE TWO EXPERTS WILL AGAIN CONFIRM THAT OUR ACTIONS ON SHELTERING ARE BOTH PRUDENT AND CONSERVATIVE.

/MR PRESIDENT, .....

MR PRESIDENT, I NOW LIKE TO TURN TO THE FIRST PART OF THE AMENDED MOTION. I CAN ASSURE MEMBERS THAT WE WILL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY IN THE EXTREMELY UNLIKELY EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY AT DAYA BAY WHICH IS LIKELY TO POSE ANY THREAT TO HONG KONG. BY THIS, I MEAN OFF-SITE EMERGENCIES, WHICH ARE DECLARED WHEN THERE IS A PROBABILITY OF RADIOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARY OF THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION. THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS NOTIFICATION WERE ESTABLISHED AND PUBLICISED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, FOLLOWING A MEETING BETWEEN MYSELF AND MY GUANGDONG COUNTERPART FOR NUCLEAR ACCIDENT CONTINGENCY PLANNING. WE MADE IT CLEAR THEN THAT WE WOULD BE NOTIFIED OF ALL OFF-SITE EMERGENCIES, WHETHER OR NOT THEY MAY AFFECT HONG KONG.

THEREFORE, MR PRESIDENT, WE ALREADY HAVE IN PLACE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY OF ANY EMERGENCIES WHICH MAY HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR HONG KONG. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE OTHER AVENUES FOR EARLY NOTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL EMERGENCIES, MOST NOTABLY OUR OWN RADIATION MONITORING NETWORK AND THE REQUIREMENT UNDER THE ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE FOR CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY TO NOTIFY THE GOVERNMENT OF ANY INTERRUPTION TO ITS EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLIES, WHICH MAY BE CAUSED BY EVENTS AT THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF FORMALISING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES REGARDING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS WHICH DO NOT HAVE OFF-SITE CONSEQUENCES. THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL PROVIDE AN EXTRA LEVEL OF SECURITY ONCE THEY ARE CONCLUDED.

ONCE NOTIFIED, MR PRESIDENT, WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC IS INFORMED AND KEPT INFORMED ABOUT ALL THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THEM. WE ACCEPT THE INFORMATION IS VITAL TO AVOID PANIC AND TO PREVENT CONCERN ARISING IN HONG KONG PUBLIC.

SO FAR, I HAVE REFERRED TO HONG KONG'S CONTINGENCY PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS IN ISOLATION. WE HAVE BEEN LIAISING VERY CLOSELY WITH THE GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR NOTIFICATION OF ACCIDENTS AND FOR THE TRANSFER OF INFORMATION. THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED FROM STANDARD INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES, SUITABLY MODIFIED TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN HAND. PART OF OUR CONTINGENCY PLAN SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSES CROSS-BORDER ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. WE HAVE AGREED TO CO-OPERATE AND TO PROVIDE MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF A NUCLEAR INCIDENT AT DAYA BAY WHICH WOULD REQUIRE BOTH SIDES TO ACTIVATE THEIR CONTINGENCY PLANS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP OUR LINKS WITH THE GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES; THESE WILL, AS A MATTER OF COURSE, INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HOW WE MAY IMPROVE CO-ORDINATION OF OUR EFFORTS IN CONTINGENCY PLANNING. HOWEVER, OUR EXISTING CONTINGENCY PLAN TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES WHICH, AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, WERE CONCLUDED LAST SEPTEMBER, AND WHICH ALREADY INCLUDE A SIGNIFICANT LEVEL OF CO-OPERATION.

MR PRESIDENT, AS REGARDS THE SECOND PART OF THE AMENDED MOTION, WE HAVE ASKED THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF HONG KONG. WE BELIEVE THAT FINAL DECISIONS TO GO AHEAD AT PARTICULAR SITES ARE STILL SUBJECT TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES THAT HAVE YET TO BE COMPLETED AND ACCEPTED. THESE DECISIONS MAY, THEREFORE, BE SOME WAY OFF. NEVERTHELESS, WE SHARE MEMBERS' CONCERNS THAT THE WORRIES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT: WE HAVE REFLECTED THESE CONCERNS TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

MR PRESIDENT, I HAVE EXPLAINED THAT -

- . WE DO HAVE A DAYA BAY CONTINGENCY PLAN;
- . WE DO NOT NEED TO INCLUDE MEASURES FOR SHELTERING IN ANY PART OF HONG KONG OTHER THAN PING CHAU;
- . WE WILL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY OF ANY OFF-SITE EMERGENCY AT THE GUANGDONG NUCLEAR POWER STATION THAT MAY HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR HONG KONG; AND
- . WE HAVE EXPLAINED TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES THE CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

THE OFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL, THEREFORE, ABSTAIN FROM THE MAIN MOTION AND VOTE IN FAVOUR OF THE AMENDED MOTION.

THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT.

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MOTION TO PUT UP RATES PASSED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION TO INCREASE RATES BY 20 PER CENT IN EACH OF THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1994/95 AND 1995/96.

MOVING THE MOTION TO AMEND THE RATING ORDINANCE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID THE RATEABLE VALUES OF ALL PROPERTIES HAD ON AVERAGE INCREASED BY 33 PER CENT, REFLECTING THE INCREASE IN THEIR RENTAL VALUES FROM JULY 1, 1990 TO JULY 1, 1993.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THIS PERCENTAGE WAS IN LINE WITH INFLATION OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, AND BELOW THE RISE IN PROPERTY PRICES.

SIR HAMISH REITERATED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE GENERAL REVALUATION WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE RATES BURDEN FELL EQUITABLY AMONG RATEPAYERS IN PROPORTION TO THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTIES.

HE SAID WHILE THE RATEABLE VALUES HAD CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THE REVALUATION EXERCISE, THE OVERALL RATES PERCENTAGE CHARGE REMAINED AT 5.5 PER CENT AS IN 1993/94.

THE PROPOSED 20 PER CENT CAP ON RATES INCREASE FOR TWO YEARS WAS INTENDED TO REDUCE THE IMMEDIATE IMPACT OF THE GENERAL REVALUATION, HE SAID.

"THE EFFECT OF THIS MEASURE IS THAT THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT WHICH INDIVIDUAL RATEPAYERS WILL BE ASKED TO PAY WILL BE NO MORE THAN 20 PER CENT ABOVE WHAT WAS PAID IN 1993/94.

"SIMILARLY, THE MAXIMUM PAYMENT IN 195/96 WILL BE NO MORE THAN 20 PER CENT ABOVE THE AMOUNT PAYABLE IN 1994/95."

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE INCREASE IN RATES IN 1994/95 WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN CUMULATIVE INFLATION SINCE THE LAST GENERAL REVALUATION AND THE FULL IMPACT OF ANY INCREASE IN RATES PAYMENT ARISING FROM THE LATEST REVALUATION EXERCISE WOULD BE SPREAD OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

IT WOULD BE AN INCREASE OF \$53 A MONTH FOR A SMALL FALT IN 1994/95.

HE SAID IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF PROPERTIES WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE PROSOED RATES RELIEF CAP WHILE PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.

SIR HAMISH BELIEVED THAT THE PUBLIC FOUND THE NEW PACKAGE ON RATES ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE THE ADMINISTRATION HAD RECEIVED FEWER COMPLAINTS THAN THE PREVIOUS REVALUATION EXERCISES.

IN RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS FROM LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS ON THE PACKAGE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE PROPOSED RATES RELIEF MEASURE SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED IN ISOLATION FROM THE OTHER BUDGET PROPSOALS AS IT WAS BUT ONE OF A VERY BROAD RANGE OF CONCESSIONS IN THE TOTAL PACKAGE.

"THE WHOLE BUDGET PACKAGE HAS BEEN PUT TOGETHER AFTER VERY CAREFUL DELIBERATIONS AND CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS, AND HAS TAKEN FULL ACCOUNT OF OUR FINANCIAL WELL-BEING OVER THE FORECAST PERIOD."

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY SOME NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS HAD CONSIDERED MAKING WENT TO THE VERY FABRIC OF HONG KONG'S CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

"GIVEN OUR POLITICAL FRAMEWORK, IT IS VITAL THAT THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO CONTROL THE PRESENTATION OF EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS TO THIS COUNCIL AND THAT WE KNOW WHAT INCOME TO EXPECT FROM LAWFULLY-ESTABLISHED REVENUES ARISING WITHIN HONG KONG OVER THE COMING FINANCIAL YEARS.

"THE AMENDMENTS WHICH SOME MEMBERS HAD PROPOSED EARLIER, IF SUCCESSFULLY MOVED, WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THE STABILITY OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM DEPENDS," SIR HAMISH SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID TODAY'S MOTION ALSO SOUGHT TO REVISE THE SPLIT OF THE TOTAL RATES REVENUE BETWEEN GENERAL REVENUE AND THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE TWO COUNCILS WOULD GET ENOUGH TO CARRY OUT THEIR PROGRAMMES OF ACTIVITIES IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

HE SAID THE MOTION RAISED THE MINIMUM RATEABLE VALUE BELOW WHICH SMALL PROPERTIES WERE EXEMPT FROM ASSESSEMTN FROM \$2,000 TO \$2,600.

TWO MOTIONS PASSED ON LOTTERY DUTY AND AIR TAX

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED TWO MOTIONS TO REDUCE THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX AND THE LOTTERY DUTY AS WELL AS TO REDUCE THE GOVERNMENT'S SHARE OF LOTTERY PROCEEDS IN FAVOUR OF THE LOTTERIES FUND.

MOVING THE MOTION TO AMEND THE FIRST SCHEDULE UNDER THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX ORDINANCE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID THE TAX REDUCTION FROM \$150 TO \$50 WAS ESTIMATED TO COST \$960 MILLION IN 1994/95 AND \$4.1 BILLION UP TO 1997/98.

SIR HAMISH SAID THE TOURISM INDUSTRY HAD MADE REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS TO HIM ABOUT THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECT OF HIGH DEPARTURE TAX ON TOURISM AND THE WIDER ECONOMY.

"THEIR ARGUMENT IS A PERSUASIVE ONE," HE SAID.

THE REDUCTION MIGHT ALSO HELP TO REDUCE THE CONGESTION IN THE TRANSIT AREA OF THE AIRPORT, AS MORE TRANSIT PASSENGERS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO GO OUT THE AIRPORT TEMPORARILY.

EXTRA SPENDING BY THESE PASSENGERS WOULD BOOST THE RETAIL TRADE AND THE TOURISM INDUSTRY. LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO TRAVEL BY AIR WILL ALSO BENEFIT FROM THIS CONCESSION.

TURNING TO THE OTHER RESOLUTION THAT AMENDED THE BETTING DUTY ORDINANCE, MR MACLEOD SAID IT SOUGHT TO RAISE THE SHARE OF THE LOTTERY PROCEEDS TO BE ALLOCATED TO THE LOTTERIES FUND FROM 5 PER CENT TO 15 PER CENT.

THE LOTTERY DUTY IS CORRESPONDINGLY REDUCED FROM 30 PER CENT TO 20 PER CENT.

WITH THIS ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF FUNDING WHICH AMOUNT TO ABOUT \$1.8 BILLION OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, THE LOTTERIES FUND WILL BE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO MEET THE KEY TARGETS SET OUT IN THE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND THE GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION, HE SAID.

"IT WILL ALSO BE EQUIPPED TO FULFIL THE COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS LAST YEAR TO BUILD SEVEN NURSING HOMES BY 1997 AND TO PROVIDE MORE CARE-AND-ATTENTION PLACES," HE ADDED.

CARS FOR DISABLED BE EXEMPTED FROM TUNNEL TOLLS

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION TO EXEMPT CARS USED FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF DISABLED PERSONS FROM THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL PASSAGE TAX.

MOVING THE MOTION TO AMEND THE SECOND SCHEDULE UNDER THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL (PASSAGE TAX) ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID THE EXEMPTION WOULD APPLY TO THE DIAL-A-RIDE REHABUS SERVICE.

THE SERVICE IS A PERSONALISED TRANSPORT SERVICE PROVIDED TO DISABLED PERSONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH SERIOUS PHYSICAL DISABILITIES WHO CANNOT USE ORDINARY MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

HE NOTED THAT THE PASSENGERS OF THE SERVICE WOULD BE DIRECTLY BENEFITED BECAUSE THEY HAD TO PAY FOR THE TUNNEL TOLLS AS A SURCHARGE.

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HOUSING TRAFFIC BY-LAW AMENDED

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A MOTION SEEKING TO REVISE FIXED PENALTY FOR ILLEGAL PARKING ON RESTRICTED ROADS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID THE PRESENT CHARGES FOR ILLEGAL PARKING ON RESTRICTED ROADS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES HAD NOT BEEN CHANGED SINCE FEBRUARY 1, 1990.

"IT HAS BEEN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S PRACTICE TO ALIGN THE FIXED PENALTY FOR ILLEGAL PARKING ON RESTRICTED ROADS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WITH THAT APPLYING ON PUBLIC ROADS," MR EASON SAID.

ON FEBRUARY 23, 1994, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL APPROVED AN INCREASE IN FIXED PENALTY FOR ILLEGAL PARKING ON PUBLIC ROADS FROM \$200 TO \$320 UNDER THE TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS (FIXED PENALTY) ORDINANCE WITH EFFECT FROM JUNE 1, 1994.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE AUTHORITY APPROVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSING (TRAFFIC) BY-LAW ON MARCH 25, 1994 TO INCREASE ILLEGAL PARKING CHARGES ON RESTRICTED ROADS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES BY AROUND 60 PER CENT.

"THE REVISED CHARGES WILL TAKE EFFECT ON JUNE 1, 1994 WHEN HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S FIXED PENALTY TICKET SYSTEM UNDER THE HOUSING (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) (FIXED PENALTY) BY-LAW WILL BE PUT IN PLACE," MR EASON ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

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BILLS TO MEET STANDARDS AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING

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TWO BILLS SEEKING TO BRING THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE IN LINE WITH NEW INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN THE 1988 UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 AND THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1994.

MOVING THE SECOND READINGS OF THE BILLS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, SAID THEY SOUGHT TO INTRODUCE DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORTS OF DANGEROUS DRUGS

THEY ALSO PROVIDE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES COVERED BY THE CONVENTION; AND SEEK TO INTRODUCE NEW PROVISIONS TO SUPPRESS ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC BY SEA.

MR WOODHOUSE SAID SPECIFICALLY, THE BILL AIMED TO:

- \* INCLUDE CANNABIS RESIN AS A DANGEROUS DRUG, SEPARATELY FROM CANNABIS;
- \* EMPOWER THE GOVERNMENT CHEMIST TO CULTIVATE CANNABIS AND SYNTHESISE DANGEROUS DRUGS, WHERE NECESSARY, IN DISCHARGING HIS DUTIES;
- \* REPEAL A PRESUMPTION RELATING TO POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS DRUG WHICH WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS;
- \* DELEGATE THE GOVERNOR'S POWER TO AMEND THE SECOND SCHEDULE CONCERNING PRESCRIBED HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS TO THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY;
- \* LIMIT THE POWER OF ENTRY AND SEARCH WITHOUT A WARRANT TO SITUATIONS WHERE IT WAS NOT REASONABLY PRACTICABLE TO OBTAIN ONE, IN ORDER TO MAKE THE PROVISION COMPATIBLE WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS, AND TO PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR THE ISSUING OF WARRANTS; AND
- \* LOWER THE CONCENTRATION OF CODEINE IN COUGH PREPARATIONS TO WHICH THE ORDINANCE APPLIED.

HE ADDED THAT THESE AMENDMENTS WERE INTRODUCED TO MEET THE OPERATIONAL NEED TO DISCHARGE THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

DEBATES ON THE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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BILL ON GREEN FUND INTRODUCED

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A BILL SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A DEDICATED FUNDING SOURCE FOR EDUCATIONAL, RESEARCH AND OTHER PROJECTS RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER CONSERVATION MATTERS AS WELL AS TO PRESCRIBE A STATUTORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS (SPEL), MR TONY EASON, SAID THE EXISTING SOURCES AND RANGE OF FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES WERE UNCERTAIN AND INADEQUATE AND TENDED TO FOSTER AD HOC EFFORTS AT THE EXPENSE OF LONGER TERM AND MORE IN-DEPTH PROJECTS.

"THE GOVERNOR THEREFORE PROPOSED IN HIS 1993 POLICY ADDRESS AN INITIAL CAPITAL INJECTION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF \$50 MILLION TO SET UP AN ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AND OTHER WORTHWHILE ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS," HE SAID.

THE BILL CREATES THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND AND DEFINES ITS OBJECTIVES AS WELL AS PROVIDES FOR THE INCORPORATION OF SPEL, IN THE CAPACITY OF A CORPORATION SOLE, BE THE TRUSTEE OF THE FUND.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE SETTING UP OF AN ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE TRUSTEE ON THE USE OF THE FUND.

"THE COMMITTEE WILL COMPRISE A NON-OFFICIAL CHAIRMAN AS WELL AS NON-OFFICIAL AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS.

"IN RECOMMENDING NON-OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS, WE INTEND TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM A BROAD SPECTRUM OF INTERESTS INCLUDING THE GREEN GROUPS WHO WILL ALSO BE AMONG THE MAIN TARGETS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND," MR EASON SAID.

THE TRUSTEE IS REQUIRED TO TABLE BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ANNUALLY THE AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND HIS REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND.

MR EASON NOTED THAT AS WITH MANY OTHER TRUST FUNDS ESTABLISHED FOR EDUCATIONAL OR CHARITABLE PURPOSES, THERE WAS A STANDARD PROVISION TO ALLOW THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO CHARGE A SUPERVISION FEE OF NOT MORE THAN 2.5 PER CENT OF THE ANNUAL INCOME OF THE FUND TO RECOVER COSTS IN MANAGING THE FUND SHOULD THEY BECOME SIGNIFICANT.

"HOWEVER, IT IS NOT ENVISAGED THAT THERE WILL BE SIGNIFICANT ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR ADMINISTERING THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND.

"IN THIS REGARD, THE BILL STIPULATES THAT THE COST OF ADMINISTERING THE FUND, OTHER THAN THE COST OF EMPLOYING PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS, WILL BE CHARGED TO THE GENERAL REVENUE," MR EASON SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

ELECTORAL PROVISIONS BILL INTRODUCED

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THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) (NO. 2) BILL WHICH EMPOWERS THE REGISTRATION OFFICER TO OMIT THE NAMES OF REGISTERED ELECTORS FROM THE VOTER REGISTER WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR NICHOLAS NG, SAID THE AMENDMENTS DID NOT INVOLVE ANY POLICY CHANGE BUT WERE ONLY TO PUT BEYOND DOUBT A LEGAL POINT.

HE SAID THE BILL GAVE THE REGISTRATION OFFICER A PROPER LEGAL BASIS TO OMIT, WHEN COMPILING A NEW VOTER REGISTER FOR THE YEAR, REGISTERED ELECTORS WHOSE NAMES APPEARED ON THE EXISTING VOTER REGISTER UNDER TWO CIRCUMSTANCES.

NAMES OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS CAN BE OMITTED WHEN THE REGISTRATION OFFICER HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THESE ELECTORS HAVE CEASED TO ORDINARILY RESIDE IN HONG KONG OR HAVE CHANGED THEIR PRINCIPAL PLACES OF RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG.

MR NG SAID THE ACCURACY OF THE VOTER REGISTER WOULD BE GREATLY AFFECTED IF THE REGISTRATION OFFICER DID NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO OMIT REGISTERED VOTERS.

IT WOULD ALSO UNDERMINE THE WHOLE BASIS OF GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS, MR NG ADDED.

"IT WILL, OF COURSE, BE OPEN TO ANY ELECTOR SO OMITTED FROM THE REGISTER TO APPLY FOR RE-REGISTRATION PROVIDED HE HAS RESUMED ORDINARY RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG OR IS ABLE TO PROVIDE A NEW RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, AS THE CASE MAY BE," HE SAID.

MR NG ALSO URGED LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS TO GIVE THIS BILL AN EARLY AND FAVOURABLE CONSIDERATION BECAUSE OF THE TIGHT SCHEDULE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO MEET NEW STANDARDS AGAINST DRUG DEALING

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A BILL SEEKING TO MEET THE NEW INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN THE 1988 UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, SAID THE BILL ALSO PROPOSED TO REPEAL A PRESUMPTION RELATING TO POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS DRUG WHICH WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

/"IT SEEKS .....

"IT SEEKS TO EXTEND THE EXISTING SCOPE OF CONTROL TO COVER AN ADDITIONAL 21 CHEMICALS WHICH ARE SPECIFIED IN THE CONVENTION.

"IT ALSO SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR THREE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF CONTROL ON THE SPECIFIED CHEMICALS," MR WOODHOUSE SAID.

THE BILL EMPOWERED THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY TO MAKE THE ABOVE TWO AMENDMENTS ACCORDINGLY.

"THE AMENDMENT PROHIBITS THE POSSESSION, MANUFACTURE, TRANSPORT OR DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIFIED CHEMICALS, KNOWING, OR HAVING REASONABLE GROUND TO BELIEVE, THAT THEY ARE TO BE USED IN, OR FOR, THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS," HE SAID.

THUS THE BILL ALSO EMPOWERED THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO AMEND IT FOR THE ABOVE GOAL.

"IT ALSO REQUIRES THAT RECORDS OF DEALINGS IN SPECIFIED CHEMICALS BE KEPT FOR TWO YEARS," MR WOODHOUSE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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NEW AIRPORT BUILDING STRUCTURES COMPLY WITH ORDINANCE  
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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ASD) ENSURED THAT PROVISIONS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE WERE FULLY APPLIED TO GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS BUT USUAL SUBMISSION FOR CHECKING WAS NOT NECESSARY, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON SAMUEL WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR BLAKE SAID THIS WOULD BE THE CASE FOR SOME OF THE BUILDING STRUCTURES ON THE CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT PLATFORM, WHICH WERE DESIGNED BY ASD AND CONSTRUCTED UNDER ITS SUPERVISION.

AS FOR THE TERMINAL BUILDING AND SUPPORTING FACILITIES WHICH WERE BEING DESIGNED BY CONSULTANTS FOR THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (PAA), MR BLAKE SAID SINCE DESIGN COMMENCED IN 1992, THERE HAD BEEN REGULAR CONTACTS WITH THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO) TO ENSURE THAT THE DESIGN DEVELOPMENT COMPLIED WITH THE RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE TERMINAL HAS BEEN DEVELOPED WITH THE CLOSE INVOLVEMENT OF THE AIRLINE AND TRAVEL INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS THE FULL INVOLVEMENT OF THOSE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY, IMMIGRATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ESSENTIAL IN AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT," HE SAID.

MR BLAKE NOTED THAT THESE ONGOING CONTACTS WITH BOO HAD REPLACED THE USUAL SUBMISSION PROCEDURES IMPOSED ON PRIVATE DEVELOPER AND PAA WAS CURRENTLY DISCUSSING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS APPROPRIATE EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE FINAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF ALL BUILDING STRUCTURES AT THE AIRPORT, INCLUDING THE TERMINAL BUILDING, WOULD ENSURE THAT THE STANDARDS OF CONSTRUCTION IMPOSED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE COULD BE SATISFIED.

ON FIRE SAFETY, MR BLAKE SAID THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT (FSD) HAD BEEN EXTENSIVELY INVOLVED IN THE DESIGN DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERMINAL BUILDING AND WAS CONSULTED BY ASD AS NECESSARY.

FSD HAD ALREADY ADOPTED FOR LOCAL APPLICATION THE UK FIRE OFFICES COMMITTEE RULES, AS WELL AS OTHER INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION OF THE USA, TO WHICH THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF ALL BUILDINGS AT THE NEW AIRPORT WOULD CONFIRM, HE ADDED.

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STRONG SUPPORT FOR LOWERING VOTING AGE

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THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR NICHOLAS NG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HE DISAGREED WITH ASSERTIONS THAT THE PUBLIC HAD SHOWN LITTLE SUPPORT FOR LOWERING THE VOTING AGE TO 18 AND THAT YOUNG PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 21 WERE NOT INTERESTED IN REGISTERING AS VOTERS.

PUBLIC OPINION POLLS CONDUCTED LAST YEAR HAD SHOWN THAT THE PUBLIC HAD GIVEN STRONG AND PERSISTENT SUPPORT FOR THE LOWERING OF VOTING AGE, HE ADDED.

THE RESPONSE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THIS AGE GROUP TOWARDS THE CURRENT VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING, MR NG SAID IN A REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE HAS SO FAR RECEIVED MORE THAN 106,000 APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION AS NEW VOTERS.

OF THEM, MORE THAN 17,000 OR ABOUT 16 PER CENT ARE FROM THE NEWLY ELIGIBLE AGE GROUP OF 18 TO 21.

HE SAID EFFORTS SHOULD BE KEPT UP TO PROMOTE ELECTORS' EDUCATION THROUGH THE ONGOING CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES BOTH IN SCHOOLS AND IN THE COMMUNITY.

"FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL LAUNCH AN EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE VOTER TURNOUT.

"OTHER THAN THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, IT IS ALSO THE ELECTORS' DUTY TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE," MR NG SAID.

HE ADDED THAT COMMUNITY GROUPS AND POLITICAL PARTIES, THROUGH THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ELECTIONS, WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENCOURAGING VOTERS TO TAKE PART IN THE ELECTIONS.

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GOVT WON'T INTERVENE IN WAGES

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THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT, AND WOULD NOT, SEEK TO INTERVENE IN WAGE DETERMINATION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR LEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT THE FORCES OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN THE LABOUR MARKET WERE A MUCH MORE EFFICIENT GUIDE IN SETTING WAGE LEVELS THAN ANY MEANS OF ARBITRARY DETERMINATION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"SETTING A MINIMUM WAGE FOR LOCAL WORKERS WOULD INTRODUCE A HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE ELEMENT OF RIGIDITY INTO OUR MARKET SYSTEM AND WOULD WORK AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF NOT ONLY OUR ECONOMY BUT ALSO OUR WORKERS," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE SETTING OF A MINIMUM ALLOWABLE WAGE FOR FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS, HE SAID THIS WAS A SPECIAL MEASURE TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL WORKERS "SO THAT THEIR WAGES WOULD NOT BE DEPRESSED BY WORKERS FROM OUTSIDE HONG KONG."

THIS WOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS ARE NOT EXPLOITED.

MR LEUNG STRESSED IT WAS INCORRECT TO SAY THAT THE MEDIAN WAGES OF LOCAL WORKERS WERE LOWER THAN THE MINIMUM WAGE SET FOR FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS.

HE AGREED THAT THE FOURTH QUARTER 1993 GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY HAD FOUND 168,000 EMPLOYEES WHOSE MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS WERE LESS THAN \$3,500.

HOWEVER, THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF LOCAL WORKERS EARNING BELOW THAT LEVEL IS QUITE SMALL AS THE SURVEY COVERED ALL EMPLOYED PERSONS, INCLUDING FAMILY WORKERS, UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK, AND SOME 129,000 FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS.

TURNING TO LOCAL WORKERS' QUALITY OF LIFE, THE SECRETARY SAID BETWEEN 1981 AND 1991, THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME HAD INCREASED BY 58 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

IN ADDITION, HONG KONG WORKERS SHARE SUCH BENEFITS AS NINE YEARS OF FREE EDUCATION, HEAVILY SUBSIDISED HOUSING AND HEALTH CARE, GOOD RECREATION AND CULTURAL FACILITIES, AND COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.

CITING EXAMPLES, MR LEUNG SAID LABOUR LEGISLATION WAS CONSTANTLY REVIEWED TO BRING ABOUT BETTER PROTECTION AND BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN IMPROVEMENTS IN ANNUAL LEAVE PROVISIONS, INCREASED LEVEL OF EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION, RETRAINING TO HELP DISPLACED WORKERS AND OTHER BENEFITS.

"ALL THESE MEASURES ARE AIMED AT BRINGING BETTER BENEFITS AND PROTECTION TO OUR WORKERS AND IMPROVING THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE," HE SAID.

GUIDELINES ON BANNER DISPLAY EXPLAINED

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UNDER EXISTING GUIDELINES, DISTRICT LAND OFFICERS ONLY APPROVE NON-COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING INVOLVING THE DISPLAY OF BANNERS AND POSTERS RELATED TO SPECIFIC EVENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HOWARD YOUNG, MR EASON SAID THE MAIN CRITERION FOR APPROVAL WAS WHETHER THE EVENT TO BE PUBLICISED WAS NON-COMMERCIAL AND OF INTEREST TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

"FACTORS SUCH AS OBSTRUCTION TO THE PUBLIC AND TRAFFIC SAFETY ARE ALSO TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT," HE SAID.

MR EASON EXPLAINED THAT THE APPLICATION BY AN ORGANISATION TO MOUNT 30 BANNERS ON LAMP-POSTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI DISTRICTS FROM MAY 24 TO 29 THIS YEAR HAD BEEN REJECTED PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE APPLICANT WAS A COMMERCIAL ORGANISATION RATHER THAN A NON-PROFIT MAKING BODY.

THE APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED IN EARLY JANUARY THIS YEAR AND THE APPLICANT WAS ADVISED OF THE GROUNDS OF REFUSAL ON FEBRUARY 15 THIS YEAR.

A SIMILAR APPLICATION FOR A SIMILAR EVENT BUT MADE BY AN ORGANISATION WITH A DIFFERENT NAME WAS APPROVED IN MAY 1992.

THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER, HONG KONG WEST, IS CONSIDERING A FRESH APPLICATION FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENT SUBMITTED BY A NON-PROFIT MAKING BODY WHICH IS ONE OF THE ORGANISERS.

HE STRESSED THAT ALL APPLICATIONS WERE TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ESTABLISHED GUIDELINES.

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18 SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS IN THREE YEARS

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THERE WERE 18 CASES OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS (INCLUDING ANONYMOUS ONES) RECEIVED FROM STAFF AGAINST THEIR COLLEAGUES OR SUPERVISORS WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR MICHAEL SZE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"WE TAKE ALL STAFF COMPLAINTS VERY SERIOUSLY," STRESSED MR SZE IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"ALL COMPLAINTS WERE BY FEMALES AGAINST MALES. OF THESE, FIVE CASES WERE FOUND SUBSTANTIATED. THREE OFFICERS WERE CHARGED IN COURT FOR INDECENT ASSAULT AND TWO WERE SUBSEQUENTLY CONVICTED. ALL FIVE WERE ALSO DISCIPLINED," MR SZE SAID.

/HE POINTED .....

HE POINTED OUT THAT SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS, AND OTHER INTERNAL COMPLAINTS, WERE DEALT WITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENTAL COMPLAINT PROCEDURES DRAWN UP WITH REFERENCE TO GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH.

"THESE PROCEDURES ARE WIDELY PROMULGATED AMONG STAFF. THEY SET OUT THE STEPS IN MAKING COMPLAINTS AND ENSURE THAT THE PROCEDURES ARE FAIR, SIMPLE, DIRECT AND SPEEDY.

"SENIOR OFFICERS AT DIRECTORATE LEVEL ARE NORMALLY DESIGNATED AS THE STAFF COMPLAINT OFFICERS IN DEPARTMENTS.

"IN ADDITION, DEPARTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DESIGNATE MORE STAFF COMPLAINTS OFFICERS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS TO FACILITATE AND DEAL WITH STAFF COMPLAINTS.

"THE AIM IS TO FACILITATE COMPLAINTS TO BE MADE AND TO ENABLE OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS WITH PROMPT FOLLOW-UP ACTION, INCLUDING DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS ON CONCERNED STAFF IF COMPLAINTS ARE SUBSTANTIATED," HE SAID.

MR SZE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAD RECENTLY REVIEWED THESE PROCEDURES, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT REFORMS AND BELIEVED THEY GENERALLY WORK WELL.

"BUT WE RECOGNISE THAT SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS ARE OF A VERY SPECIAL AND SENSITIVE CATEGORY AND SEPARATE GUIDELINES ON HOW TO DEAL WITH SUCH COMPLAINTS MAY BE USEFUL. WE ARE PURSUING THIS," MR SZE SAID.

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GOVT COMMITTED TO FIGHT CANCER

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THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAD IDENTIFIED CANCER AS ONE OF THE PRIORITY HEALTH AREAS WITH AN AIM TO REDUCE THE OVERALL MORTALITY ARISING FROM THE DISEASE AND TO PROVIDE A MORE HOLISTIC TYPE OF CARE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HER WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS WONG SAID THE AUTHORITY HAD FORMULATED PLANS TO OPEN AN ADDITIONAL 6,000 BEDS IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

THIS WOULD REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL 3,500 HEALTHCARE STAFF FOR ALL PATIENT GROUPS.

IN ADDITION, THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAS GRANTED A DONATION OF \$350 MILLION TO REDEVELOP THE INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL WITH MODERN FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT BY 1996 TO MEET INCREASING DEMAND.

THE INSTITUTE TREATED SOME 12,800 CANCER PATIENTS IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

/SHE SAID .....

SHE SAID CANCER PATIENTS RECEIVED AN INTEGRATED SPECTRUM OF MEDICAL SERVICES INCLUDING GENERAL AND SPECIALIST OUT-PATIENT SERVICES, ACUTE CARE, EXTENDED AND HOSPICE CARE.

IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE TO BREAK DOWN THE EXPENDITURE BY EACH SERVICE.

CITING STATISTICS, SHE SAID THE NUMBERS OF DEATH CASES FOR CANCER PATIENTS WERE 8,832 IN 1991, 9,021 IN 1992 AND 9,311 IN 1993.

IN THE CONTEXT OF DISEASE PREVENTION INCLUDING CANCER, MRS WONG NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONDUCTED A WIDE RANGE OF SPECIFIC MEASURES.

THESE INCLUDED PROVIDING HEALTH EDUCATION MATERIALS AND EXPERT ADVICE TO SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, HEPATITIS B VACCINATION, PAPANICOLAOU SMEAR SCREENING, DIETARY ADVICE FOR HEART DISEASE AND COUNSELLING FOR SMOKERS TO QUIT.

"THE EXPENDITURE INCURRED FOR DISEASE PREVENTION IN GENERAL WAS \$370.8 MILLION IN 1991/92, \$431.4 MILLION IN 1992/93 AND \$496.9 MILLION IN 1993/94," SHE SAID.

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HOS SITE EARMARKED IN QUARRY BAY

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS EARMARKED A 2.55 HECTARE SITE AT WOODSITE, QUARRY BAY, FOR A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME (HOS) PROJECT FOR A DESIGNED POPULATION OF 4,500.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON SAMUEL WONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR EASON NOTED THAT THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE NEIGHBOURING KORNHILL RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND AS THE SITE WAS ALREADY EARMARKED FOR HOS DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID IT WOULD NOT BE DISPOSED OF BY PUBLIC AUCTION.

HE SAID SINCE IT WAS NOT NORMAL POLICY TO INVITE INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPERS TO ACCEPT HOS SITES IN EXCHANGE FOR OTHER SITES HELD BY THEM, THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITY OF DOING SO IN THIS CASE.

MOST OF THIS SITE IS ALREADY ZONED "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP B)" (R(B)) AND A SMALL PART OF IT (0.37 HA) IS CURRENTLY ZONED "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" (GIC) ON THE DRAFT QUARRY BAY OUTLINE ZONING PLAN (OZP).

MR EASON SAID A SUBMISSION WOULD SHORTLY BE MADE TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TO SEEK ITS APPROVAL TO AMEND THE DRAFT OZP TO REZONE THE "GIC" PART OF THE SITE ALSO FOR "R(B)" DEVELOPMENT.

IF APPROVED, THE AMENDMENT TO THE DRAFT OZP WILL BE PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE.

MR EASON SAID THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD HAD BEEN CONSULTED ON THE REZONING PROPOSAL AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY OBJECTION TO IT HAVING BEEN VOICED SO FAR.

PUBLICATION OF THE REVISED DRAFT OZP WOULD PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY SUCH OBJECTIONS TO BE LODGED, HE SAID.

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WITNESSES WILLING TO TESTIFY AGAINST TAXI MALPRACTICES

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COMPLAINTS AGAINST TAXI MALPRACTICES, THE MAJORITY OF WHICH RELATE TO OVERCHARGING OR REFUSAL OF HIRE, CAN ONLY BE ACTIONED IF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE PREPARED TO GIVE STATEMENTS TO THE POLICE AND, IF REQUIRED, TESTIFY AS WITNESSES IN COURT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID A COMPLAINANT WOULD RECEIVE A FORMAL SUMMONS UNDER SECTION 21 OF THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE IF HE WAS REQUIRED TO TESTIFY IN COURT, AND FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE SUMMONS MIGHT RESULT IN A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THIS HAD NOT BEEN A PARTICULAR PROBLEM AS EVIDENCED BY THE NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL CONVICTIONS.

OF THE 300 TAXI OFFENCE CASES PROCEEDED BY SUMMONS IN 1993, 78.2 PER CENT WERE CONVICTED. THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR 1992 AND 1991 ARE 212 AND 62.5 PER CENT AND 164 AND 86 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

ON INCIDENTS DURING WHICH TAXI DRIVERS HAD TO BE AWAY FROM WORK BUT THE WITNESSES DID NOT SHOW UP, MR BARMA SAID IT WAS FOR THE MAGISTRATE TO DECIDE WHETHER A TAXI DRIVER SHOULD BE COMPENSATED FOR FINANCIAL LOSS.

"UNDER SECTION 69 OF THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE, IF THE MAGISTRATE IS SATISFIED THAT THE PROCEEDINGS OUGHT NOT TO HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED OR PURSUED AGAINST THE DEFENDANT, HE MAY ORDER THE AWARD OF COSTS, NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000," HE SAID.

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DIFFERENCES IN HOS AND PSPS MANAGEMENT EXPLAINED

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HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME (HOS) DEVELOPMENTS ARE MANAGED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WHILE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME (PSPS) DEVELOPMENTS ARE MANAGED BY INDIVIDUAL PRIVATE DEVELOPERS AND MANAGERS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR EASON SAID THIS ACCOUNTED FOR THE DIFFERENCES IN MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES AND CAR PARKS BETWEEN THE TWO TYPES OF DEVELOPMENTS.

"INDEED, BECAUSE THEY ARE INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENTS, THERE ARE ALSO DIFFERENCES IN MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN DIFFERENT PSPS ESTATES," HE SAID.

MR EASON NOTED THAT THE ONLY PROBLEM WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE ARISEN FROM THE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOS AND PSPS DEVELOPMENTS WAS THAT CAR PARKS IN SOME PSPS ESTATES HAD BEEN SOLD IN LOTS BY THE DEVELOPERS TO SINGLE PURCHASERS WHO LATER RESOLD OR LET THEM FOR PROFIT.

"IN ORDER TO CURTAIL THIS PRACTICE, THE CONDITIONS OF SALE OF NEW PSPS SITES WERE REVISED IN 1993 TO RESTRICT OWNERSHIP OF CAR PARKS IN FUTURE PROJECTS TO FLAT OWNERS AND TO PREVENT ANY FLAT OWNER FROM OWNING MORE THAN ONE PARKING SPACE," HE SAID.

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SHOOTING INCIDENT AT CLUB UNDER INVESTIGATION

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THE SHOOTING INCIDENT AT THE PRIVATE CLUB IN YAU MA TEI ON MARCH 18 WAS CLASSIFIED AS A ROBBERY AND A POLICE OPEN FIRE CASE, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU, MR WOODHOUSE SAID THE CRIMINAL ASPECTS OF THE CASE WERE UNDER INVESTIGATION AND PROCEEDINGS IN RESPECT OF THE SHOOTING AND ROBBERY HAD BEGUN.

HE SAID THE PRESENCE OF THE OFFICERS CONCERNED AT THE PRIVATE CLUB AT THE TIME WAS THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE INVESTIGATION.

"UNTIL ALL ASPECTS OF THIS INCIDENT HAVE BEEN RESOLVED, ANY FURTHER COMMENT COULD BE PREJUDICIAL," HE SAID.

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SUFFICIENT COURT INTERPRETERS FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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THERE ARE SUFFICIENT COURT INTERPRETERS TO DEAL WITH CASES INVOLVING LANGUAGES OTHER THAN CHINESE AND ENGLISH.

BUT THE JUDICIARY IS CONTINUING TO ENLARGE THE POOL BY RECRUITING MORE QUALIFIED INTERPRETERS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MOSES CHENG MO-CHI, MRS CHAN SAID OF THE 710,345 CASES DEALT WITH AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF COURTS AND TRIBUNALS LAST YEAR, 6,165 CASES OR 0.86 PER CENT INVOLVED LANGUAGES OTHER THAN CHINESE AND ENGLISH.

AT PRESENT 547 FREELANCE INTERPRETERS HAVE REGISTERED WITH THE JUDICIARY TO DEAL WITH SUCH CASES.

BEFORE A FREELANCE INTERPRETER IS REGISTERED, HE WILL BE INTERVIEWED AND WILL UNDERGO AN EXAMINATION TO ENSURE THAT HE IS PROFICIENT IN BOTH ENGLISH AND THE OTHER LANGUAGE WITH WHICH HE CLAIMS TO BE CONVERSANT.

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STRINGENT CONTROL ON USE OF DB FUNDS

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STRINGENT CONTROL HAD BEEN EXERCISED TO ENSURE THAT THE USE AND DISBURSEMENT OF DISTRICT BOARD (DB) FUNDS WERE WITHIN THE AMBIT OF VOTE AND THE EXPENDITURE GUIDELINES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT, MR SUEN EXPLAINED THAT THE FUNDS WERE SPENT ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE DB BASED ON THE NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT.

HE SAID THE ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF THE FUNDS WERE MODELLED ON GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING, STORES, AND GENERAL AND OTHER REGULATIONS.

HE SAID: "CONTROLS INVOLVING CHECKS AND COUNTER-CHECKS ARE EXERCISED BY DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF FROM THE INCEPTION TO COMPLETION OF A PROJECT TO MINIMISE CHANCES OF ABUSE OR MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS."

DISBURSEMENT OF THE FUND IS MADE ON THE PRODUCTION OF DULY CERTIFIED SUPPORTING RECEIPTS AND ONLY AFTER CHECKS HAVE BEEN MADE BY DISTRICT OFFICER STAFF THAT THE CLAIMS ARE WITHIN THE ORIGINAL AMBIT APPROVED BY THE DB AND THAT THE EXPENDITURE IS IN ORDER.

IN CASE OF DISCREPANCIES FROM THE ORIGINAL APPROVAL, MR SUEN SAID THE DB WOULD BE ASKED TO ENDORSE THE DISCREPANCIES AND TO SATISFY ITSELF THAT THE EXPENDITURE WAS IN ORDER BEFORE PAYMENT WERE PAID.

NOTING THAT THE DISTRICT OFFICER PLAYED A VETTING ROLE TO ENSURE FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES WERE FULLY OBSERVED, HE STRESSED THAT DISTRICT OFFICER STAFF WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR CLOSELY THE USE OF DB FUNDS.

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GOVT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY COMPANY

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THERE IS NO QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT DISCRIMINATING AGAINST ANY PARTICULAR COMPANY OR TYPE OF COMPANIES AS LONG AS THEY ARE OPERATING LEGALLY IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, ASSURED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG, MR CARTLAND SAID A LINE MUST BE DRAWN BETWEEN COMPANIES THAT WERE SUITABLE FOR LISTING AND THOSE THAT WERE NOT.

"THIS IS CLEARLY DEFINED IN THE STOCK EXCHANGE'S LISTING RULES," HE SAID.

THE PROPOSALS OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG LIMITED (SEHK) TO TIGHTEN THE LISTING REQUIREMENTS FOR NEWLY LISTED COMPANIES WERE RELEASED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND HAVE NOT YET BEEN FINALISED.

UNDER THE PROPOSAL, THE SEHK WOULD HAVE A DISCRETION TO RELAX THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR LISTING IN THE CASE OF DESERVING SMALLER COMPANIES, FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THEIR OPERATING PROFITS HAVE EXCEEDED \$60 MILLION IN THE PAST THREE YEARS BEFORE APPLYING FOR NEW LISTING.

"THIS WOULD HELP TO AVOID HINDERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD, WELL MANAGED SMALL TO MEDIUM-SIZED COMPANIES," HE SAID.

MR CARTLAND NOTED THAT PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSALS WOULD BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT BY THE LISTING COMMITTEE AND THE COUNCIL OF THE SEHK, BOTH OF WHICH WERE COMPOSED OF MARKET PRACTITIONERS.

HE SAID ANY PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LISTING RULES WOULD REQUIRE THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC) BEFORE THE CHANGES COULD COME INTO EFFECT.

"THE ADMINISTRATION FULLY SUPPORTS THE STOCK EXCHANGE'S ACTION TO CONSULT THE MARKET ON IMPORTANT ISSUES FROM TIME TO TIME IN ORDER TO KEEP PACE WITH MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND BALANCE A WHOLE RANGE OF DIFFERENT INTERESTS.

"WE CAN TRUST THE STOCK EXCHANGE WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SFC TO TAKE A DECISION IN THE GENERAL INTEREST OF THE MARKET," HE ADDED.

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THREE WAYS TO TACKLE METHADONE CLINIC NUISANCES

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ADOPTED A THREE-PRONGED APPROACH TO DEAL WITH SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCES CAUSED TO RESIDENTS NEAR METHADONE CLINICS.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, SAID LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION HAD BEEN STEPPED UP AGAINST ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN THE VICINITY OF THE CLINICS.

METHADONE PATIENTS ARE EDUCATED TO DISPOSE OF USED SYRINGES PROPERLY AND STREET ADDICTS TO COME IN FOR METHADONE TREATMENT.

THE THIRD APPROACH IS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, SUCH AS FREQUENT CLEANSING TO REMOVE DISCARDED SYRINGES, BETTER LIGHTING IN THE AREA AND STRENGTHENED BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR WOODHOUSE SAID THE METHADONE TREATMENT PROGRAMME ENABLED PATIENTS TO ADOPT A NORMAL AND ECONOMICALLY PRODUCTIVE LIFESTYLE.

IT HELPS TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE HEALTH HAZARDS AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY RELATED TO ILLICIT DRUG USE.

HE SAID A REDUCTION IN THE INJECTING OF HEROIN DUE TO THE SUBSTITUTION OF ORAL METHADONE MEANT LESS SHARING OF NEEDLES.

"THIS SLOWS THE SPREAD OF BLOOD-BORNE DISEASES, INCLUDING AIDS, WHICH CAN BE PASSED FROM DRUG USERS TO THE GENERAL POPULATION," HE SAID.

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#### NO DUPLICATION IN WORK OF FINANCE HEADS

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THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES (SFS) "SHARING OUT THE WORKLOAD" WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA).

THE NATURE OF THEIR WORK AND THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY WERE DIFFERENT, EVEN THOUGH THE SUBJECT MATTER WAS IN SOME RESPECT CLOSELY RELATED, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU, SIR HAMISH SAID IT WAS PROBABLY THIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAD GIVEN RISE TO SOME MISCONCEPTION OF OVERLAPPING AND DUPLICATION.

THE HKMA WAS ESTABLISHED PRINCIPALLY BY MERGING TWO OUT OF THE THREE SELF-CONTAINED EXECUTIVE OFFICES OPERATING UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE THEN MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH: THE OFFICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND AND THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING.

"THUS, THE SEPARATION OF THESE OPERATIONAL ARMS FROM THE BRANCH DID NOT TO ANY SUBSTANTIAL EXTENT CHANGE THE AREAS IN WHICH THE BRANCH HELD POLICY RESPONSIBILITY, OR REDUCE THE WORKLOAD OF THE RETITLED FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH (FSB) IN PRACTICAL SENSE," THE SECRETARY SAID.

THE HKMA IS A SEPARATE AGENCY WITH EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE AREAS OF BANKING SUPERVISION AND EXCHANGE FUND AND THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE HKMA IS NOT A POLICY SECRETARY BUT HE DOES TAKE THE LEAD IN FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MONETARY POLICY AND IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

"HE ALSO HAS SPECIFIC STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITY, AS MONETARY AUTHORITY, TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL STABILITY AND EFFECTIVE WORKING OF THE BANKING SYSTEM UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

THE SFS HAS A BROAD POLICY OVERVIEW ACROSS THE WHOLE RANGE OF FINANCIAL SERVICES, INCLUDING BANKING, COMPANY MATTERS, INSURANCE, RETIREMENT SCHEMES AND SECURITIES.

APART FROM THE HKMA, THE OTHER BODIES TO WHICH THE FSB RELATES ARE THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE, OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE, COMPANIES REGISTRY AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

"AN OVERVIEW OF THESE KEY AREAS IS IMPORTANT SINCE THEY ARE INEVITABLY CLOSELY INTERRELATED," SIR HAMISH SAID.

"IN ADDITION, SFS HAS ALSO ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY IN THE AREA OF GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, REPORTING AND ADVICE, AFTER TAKING OVER THE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION FROM THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH IN 1993," HE ADDED.

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#### PLANNING FOR CETS REACHES ADVANCED STAGE

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PLANNING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY ELECTRONIC TRADING SERVICE (CETS), A PROJECT DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI) SERVICES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, HAD REACHED AN ADVANCED STAGE.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SIMON IP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAU SAID THE INITIAL FOCUS OF THE CETS WAS ON TRADE TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THE GOVERNMENT SUCH AS THE PROVISION OF EDI SERVICES FOR APPLICATIONS FOR RESTRAINED TEXTILES EXPORT LICENCE (RTEL) AND LODGMENT OF TRADE DECLARATIONS (TD).

THE GOVERNMENT AND TRADELINK ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT SERVICES LTD (TRADELINK), THE COMPANY WHICH HAD ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE EDI SERVICES, ARE AIMING TO BEGIN JOINT TESTING BY JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

"PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS TEST, EDI SERVICES FOR RTELS AND TDS WILL BE LAUNCHED BY TRADELINK TOWARDS THE END OF 1995.

EDI SERVICES FOR OTHER GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS, SUCH AS TEXTILE QUOTA ENQUIRIES, APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN, AND APPLICATIONS FOR DUTIABLE COMMODITIES PERMITS WOULD BE INTRODUCED AT A LATER STAGE, MR CHAU SAID.

/HE SAID .....

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HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO PLANS TO PROMOTE THE USE OF EDI SERVICES IN SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES.

HOWEVER, THE CETS NOW BEING JOINTLY IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND TRADELINK IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE EDI SERVICES TO UP TO 120,000 HONG KONG TRADING COMPANIES, COMPARED WITH AN ESTIMATED 200 COMPANIES IN THE RETAIL, BANKING AND TRANSPORTATION SECTORS WHICH WERE CURRENTLY USING EDI.

"AS SUCH, IT IS ONE OF THE MOST AMBITIOUS EDI PROJECTS EVER LAUNCHED.

"THE AVAILABILITY OF SUCH A LARGE POOL OF EDI USERS SHOULD CREATE AN ATTRACTIVE MARKET ON THE BASIS OF WHICH THE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD BE ABLE TO LAUNCH MORE EDI SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES," MR CHAU SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HAD NO PLANS TO INTRODUCE EDI SERVICES FOR THE HANDLING OF GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS OTHER THAN THOSE IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE AREA, SAID MR CHAU.

"OUR EFFICIENCY UNIT IS, HOWEVER, CONSIDERING SETTING UP A SMALL PROJECT TEAM TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR USING NEW TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING EDI, TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY," HE ADDED.

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#### CHILD CARE CENTRES TO INSTALL EMERGENCY FACILITIES

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ALL CHILD CARE CENTRES ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, EMERGENCY LIGHTING AND EXIT SIGNS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG WAI-YIN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR WOODHOUSE SAID AMONG THE 340 REGISTERED DAYTIME CHILD CARE CENTRES, 93 WERE PROVIDED WITH AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.

HOWEVER, THE REMAINING 247 ARE EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO INSTALL AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS BECAUSE THEY ARE:

- \* REGISTERED BEFORE 1987 WHEN THE SYSTEMS WERE NOT A REQUIREMENT UNDER THE THEN CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MINIMUM FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT;
- \* WITH A FLOOR AREA BELOW 230 SQUARE METRES AND ARE NOT REQUIRED TO INSTALL THE SYSTEMS UNDER THE REVISED 1987 CODE OF PRACTICE; OR
- \* WITH A FLOOR AREA EXCEEDING 230 SQUARE METRES IN WHICH THE OCCUPANTS HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO OPEN GROUND OR A PLACE OF SAFETY OR REFUGE TO AWAIT RESCUE.

MR WOODHOUSE ADDED THAT CENTRES REGISTERED AFTER 1987 WITH A FLOOR AREA EXCEEDING 230 SQUARE METRES MUST ALSO INSTALL AUTOMATIC SMOKE DETECTION SYSTEMS.

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INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHING STANDARD

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MAINTAINING THE TEACHING STANDARD AND THE QUALITY OF JAPANESE COURSES IS A PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS THEMSELVES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HOWARD YOUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG SAID THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG OFFERED JAPANESE COURSES.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT UNDERSTOOD THE INSTITUTIONS REGULARLY REVIEWED ALL COURSES AND MADE APPROPRIATE CHANGES IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMMUNITY NEEDS.

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REINSURANCE MEASURES BEING CLOSELY MONITORED

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THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY HAS BEEN CLOSELY MONITORING THE ADEQUACY OF INSURERS' REINSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS TO SEE WHETHER THE PROPORTION OF RISKS RETAINED IS SUPPORTED BY A SUITABLE CAPITAL BASE.

"THIS WILL ENABLE THE AUTHORITY TO TAKE TIMELY MEASURES TO ADDRESS ANY CONCERNS IDENTIFIED," SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID.

THE MOVE FOLLOWS ADVERSE UNDERWRITING RESULTS OF REINSURANCE BUSINESS IN RECENT YEARS.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CARTLAND EXPLAINED CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL REINSURANCE MARKET.

THERE HAS BEEN A SHRINKAGE OF REINSURANCE CAPACITY AS CAPITAL HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM THE MARKET.

REINSURERS REMAINING IN THE MARKET HAVE TIGHTENED THEIR UNDERWRITING POLICIES AND CONTROLS BY, FOR INSTANCE, RAISING PREMIUM LEVELS, REDUCING THE SCOPE OF COVER AND BEING MORE SELECTIVE IN RISK ACCEPTANCE.

MR CARTLAND SAID IT HAD BECOME MORE DIFFICULT FOR A DIRECT INSURER TO SECURE ADEQUATE REINSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE LOCAL INSURANCE INDUSTRY IS THE DECISION BY THE HONG KONG REINSURERS FORUM NOT TO PROVIDE UNLIMITED LIABILITY REINSURANCE COVER FOR MOTOR (THIRD-PARTY) LIABILITY INSURANCE AND EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE FROM JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

/THIS WILL .....

THIS WILL SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF DIRECT INSURERS, WHO MAY NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO WITHSTAND CATASTROPHIC LOSSES, THE EXTENT OF WHICH CAN BE UNLIMITED.

"THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG REPRESENTING DIRECT INSURERS ARE DELIBERATING WITH THE FORUM HOW TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM.

"A WORKING GROUP HAS ALSO BEEN SET UP BY THE FORUM AND THE ASSOCIATION TO EXAMINE OPTIONS. ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ARE EXPECTED BY MID-JUNE," HE SAID.

OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION INCLUDE CAPPING THE COMMON LAW LIABILITIES OF AN EMPLOYER, CAR OWNER OR DRIVER UNDER THE RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND SPECIFYING A MINIMUM LEVEL OF LIABILITY WHICH HE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO INSURE AGAINST.

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#### MOTION ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PASSED

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THE MOTION ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WAS PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN AN HOUR-LONG DEBATE DURING THE COUNCIL SITTING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ORIGINAL MOTION WAS MOVED BY THE HON FUNG CHI-WOOD WITH AMENDMENTS RAISED BY THE HON PETER WONG.

AFTER COUNCILLORS HAD SPOKEN ON THE MOTION, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, REPLIED FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

ANOTHER MOTION ON HOUSING SUPPLY, WHICH WAS PROPOSED BY THE HON EDWARD HO, WAS ALSO PASSED.

MEMBERS DEBATED THE MOTION FOR ABOUT AN HOUR. THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, GAVE A CONCLUDING SPEECH.

IN ADDITION, MOTIONS MOVED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS UNDER RATING ORDINANCE, AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX ORDINANCE, BETTING DUTY ORDINANCE, OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ORDINANCE, HOUSING ORDINANCE AND CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL (PASSAGE TAX) ORDINANCE, WERE PASSED.

THERE WERE ALSO SIX BILLS PASSED WITHOUT AMENDMENTS. THEY WERE THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, GAMBLING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 AND STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994.

FIVE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY WERE THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1994, ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND BILL AND ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) (NO. 2) BILL 1994. DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

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