



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1994

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/JOINT OPERATION

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STEERING GROUP ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION SET UP

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID WORK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION HAD ALREADY STARTED.

A STEERING GROUP CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS HAS BEEN SET UP. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY AND HEAD, EFFICIENCY UNIT ARE REPRESENTED ON THE STEERING GROUP.

A DEDICATED PROJECT TEAM HAS BEEN SET UP TO WORK UNDER THE STEERING GROUP. THE TEAM WILL DEVELOP THE DETAILS OF THE CODE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES.

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES HAVE ALREADY BEEN BRIEFED ON THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CODE AND IN BROAD TERMS ON WHAT THE CODE WILL CONTAIN.

THE TEAM IS NOW STUDYING ACCESS TO INFORMATION REGIMES IN OPERATION ELSEWHERE, AND WILL BE CONSULTING WIDELY WITHIN GOVERNMENT ON THE DETAILED REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CODE.

AS PART OF THIS CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, THE TEAM WILL IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES REPRESENTING A CROSS-SECTION OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE PILOT SCHEME.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE DOES NOT GUARANTEE A RIGHT OF ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION.

THE FREEDOM TO "SEEK" AND "RECEIVE" INFORMATION RECOGNISED BY ARTICLE 16 OF THAT ORDINANCE IS A FREEDOM TO SEEK AND RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THOSE WILLING TO GIVE IT.

IT IS DESIGNED TO PREVENT INTERFERENCE IN THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN WILLING PARTICIPANTS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THIS INTERPRETATION WAS SUPPORTED BY RULINGS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT.

THESE RULINGS HAD CONFIRMED THAT THE RIGHT TO THE FREEDOM TO RECEIVE INFORMATION PROHIBITED A GOVERNMENT FROM RESTRICTING A PERSON FROM RECEIVING INFORMATION THAT OTHERS WISHED TO OR MIGHT BE WILLING TO IMPART TO HIM BUT DID NOT PLACE ON THE GOVERNMENT A POSITIVE OBLIGATION TO GIVE INFORMATION.

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NEW SCHEME ON FIRST REGISTRATION TAX FOR VEHICLES

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THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDINANCE 1994, WHICH PROVIDES FOR A NEW SCHEME ON THE CALCULATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF FIRST REGISTRATION TAX FOR MOTOR VEHICLES, WILL COME INTO OPERATION IN TWO PHASES BEGINNING NEXT MONTH.

EXPLAINING DETAILS OF THE SCHEME AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (FRIDAY), ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT (MANAGEMENT AND LICENSING), MR ERNEST LEE, SAID THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NEW SCHEME PROVIDED FOR THE REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE IMPORTERS AND DISTRIBUTORS AND FILING OF IMPORT RETURNS AND SUBMISSIONS OF PUBLISHED RETAIL PRICE LIST.

THIS WILL TAKE EFFECT ON JULY 1 THIS YEAR.

THE SECOND PHASE, PROVIDING FOR THE NEW CALCULATION AND SCHEDULES OF RATES FOR THE FIRST REGISTRATION TAX, WILL BEGIN OPERATION ON AUGUST 1 THIS YEAR.

"THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVERALL ADMINISTRATION OF THE NEW SCHEME. THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORISED TO EXERCISE CERTAIN POWERS AND TO PERFORM CERTAIN DUTIES UNDER THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

"UNDER THE NEW SCHEME, THE AMOUNT OF FIRST REGISTRATION TAX PAYABLE IS BASED ON A RETAIL PRICE (BEFORE TAX) WHICH DISTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO PUBLISH. PREVIOUSLY, THE TAX IS BASED ON THE COST, INSURANCE AND FREIGHT (CIF) VALUE OF THE VEHICLE," MR LEE SAID.

HE SAID IF A PERSON WISHED TO FIND OUT THE AGGREGATE OF THE TAXABLE VALUE OF THE VEHICLE, EXEMPTED ACCESSORIES, WARRANTY OTHER THAN A MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY AND THE FIRST REGISTRATION TAX PAID, HE COULD APPLY FOR THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATE OF VEHICLE PARTICULARS (FORM T.D.61C OR T.D.61) AT ANY LICENSING OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

"IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PUBLIC CAN EASILY FIND OUT WHETHER HE NEEDS TO PAY ADDITIONAL FIRST REGISTRATION TAX BEFORE PURCHASING A REGISTERED VEHICLE," HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A CLEAR PICTURE TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE TAXABLE VALUE OF VARIOUS MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER THE OLD/NEW SCHEME, AS WELL AS THE PROVISIONAL TAXABLE VALUE ASSESSED BY THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE AVAILABLE THE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST IN THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE.

"THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT MAY REFUSE TO RENEW THE LICENCE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE UNTIL THE OUTSTANDING FIRST REGISTRATION TAX OR ADDITIONAL FIRST REGISTRATION TAX IS PAID," MR LEE SAID.

"HE MAY ALSO CANCEL THE EXISTING LICENCE OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE IF THE REGISTERED OWNER FAILS TO PAY THE OUTSTANDING FIRST REGISTRATION TAX WITHIN 14 DAYS OF SERVICE OF A NOTICE REQUIRING PAYMENT OF THE OUTSTANDING FIRST REGISTRATION TAX," HE ADDED.

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ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MRS JESSIE TING, SAID THE NEW SCHEME WAS BASICALLY REVENUE NEUTRAL. THE OBJECTIVES ARE:

- * TO PROTECT PUBLIC REVENUE BY PREVENTING TAX AVOIDANCE;
- * TO CLARIFY WHO IS LIABLE TO PAY THE FIRST REGISTRATION TAX AND TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE THE LAW MORE EFFECTIVELY;
- * TO CREATE A "LEVEL PLAYING FIELD" FOR MOTOR VEHICLE DISTRIBUTORS AND TO GUARD AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL DEALERS ENJOYING AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE; AND
- * TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO KNOW CLEARLY THE AMOUNT OF FIRST REGISTRATION TAX THEY ARE PAYING AND THE BASIS ON WHICH IT IS CALCULATED.

SHE SAID AFTER THE NEW SCHEME WAS FULLY IMPLEMENTED ON AUGUST 1, PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL FIRST REGISTRATION TAX WOULD BE REQUIRED IN THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

- * FITTING OF ACCESSORIES TO THE VEHICLE WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER FIRST REGISTRATION;
- * AFTER FIRST REGISTRATION OF A VEHICLE, THERE ARE CHANGES OR ALTERATION TO
 - * THE CLASS OF THE VEHICLE BY REASON OF A CHANGE OF USE, FOR EXAMPLE, FROM PRIVATE CAR TO VAN-TYPE GOODS VEHICLE;
 - * THE OWNER STATUS, FOR EXAMPLE, FROM A PERSON ENJOYING EXEMPTION FROM TAX PAYMENT TO ANOTHER PERSON WITHOUT SUCH EXEMPTION;
 - * THE CLASS OF ADDITIONS TO THE CHASSIS OR CAB AND CHASSIS WHICH IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF THE VEHICLE; AND
- * SELLING A VEHICLE AT A PRICE HIGHER THAN THE AGGREGATE OF THE LAST TAXABLE VALUE OF THE VEHICLE, EXEMPTED ACCESSORIES, WARRANTY OTHER THAN A MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY AND THE FIRST REGISTRATION TAX PAID.

SPEAKING AT THE SAME PRESS CONFERENCE, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR TONG HIN-YEUNG, SAID THERE WERE PROVISIONS IN THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE FOR 17 KINDS OF OFFENCES.

EXAMPLES ARE FAILING TO REGISTER AS AN IMPORTER OR DISTRIBUTOR, FAILING TO DELIVER PUBLISHED RETAIL PRICE LIST IN THE MANNER REQUIRED, FILING FALSE OR INACCURATE IMPORT RETURNS, FAILING TO PAY FIRST REGISTRATION TAX.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY IS A FINE OF \$500,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS.

/"FOR OFFENCES

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"FOR OFFENCES PERTAINING TO UNDER-PAYMENT OF FIRST REGISTRATION TAX, THE PERSON CONVICTED OF THE OFFENCE WILL BE LIABLE TO PAY DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF TAX THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN PAYABLE," MR TONG SAID.

EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WERE MADE WITH THE MOTOR TRADERS ASSOCIATION AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL IN THE COURSE OF DRAFTING THIS AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NEW PROCEDURES WILL BE REVIEWED ONE YEAR AFTER THE OPERATION OF THE NEW SCHEME.

THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 15).

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COMAC WELCOMES PASSAGE OF BILL

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS (COMAC), MR ANDREW SO, WELCOMES THE PASSAGE OF THE COMAC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 ON JUNE 15, AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATION ON JUNE 16 OF HIS ENLARGED ROLE IN REDRESSING GRIEVANCES ARISING FROM ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

THE COMMISSIONER IS GLAD FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE OF GREATER SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, AND LOOKS FORWARD TO ACCEPTING THE NEW CHALLENGES WITH CONFIDENCE AND DETERMINATION.

HE IS PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED BY THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND ITS RECOGNITION OF THE USEFULNESS AND ADVANTAGES OF WIDENING THE INDEPENDENT COMPLAINT CHANNEL PROVIDED BY COMAC.

MR SO PLEDGES THAT HE WILL NOT DISAPPOINT THE TRUST PLACED IN HIM AND HIS OFFICE.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE COMAC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, COMAC'S OFFICE HAS BEEN GIVEN INCREASED FINANCIAL RESOURCES FROM \$13 MILLION IN 1993/94 TO \$16.1 MILLION IN 1994/95, REPRESENTING A 23.8 PER CENT INCREASE.

STEPS ARE IN HAND TO IMPLEMENT THE EXPANSION OF HIS OFFICE TO COPE WITH HIS ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE POWER TO INITIATE DIRECT INVESTIGATION IS HOWEVER A NEW DEVELOPMENT NOT CONTAINED IN THE ORIGINAL BILL.

THE FULL IMPLICATION OF THIS CHANGE, HOW TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THIS NEW POWER, THE PROCEDURES INVOLVED, AND THE RESOURCES WHICH HAVE TO BE DEVOTED FOR THIS PURPOSE HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY THOUGHT THROUGH. DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY.

AS REGARDS ACCESS TO INFORMATION, MR SO IS GLAD THAT HE IS GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS SO ARISING.

/HE CONSIDERS

HE CONSIDERS HIS OFFICE WELL PLACED FOR THE TASK AS ALLEGED BREACHES OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE ARE ACTS OF MALADMINISTRATION, THEY WILL IN ANY EVENT FALL WITHIN HIS REMIT.

THE SCHEME IS STILL AT THE DEVELOPMENT STAGE AS ANNOUNCED BY THE ADMINISTRATION YESTERDAY, HE HAS HOWEVER BEEN ASSURED THAT HE WILL BE CONSULTED ON THE DRAFTING OF THE CODE.

HE WILL CONSIDER HOW TO GEAR UP HIS OFFICE FOR THIS NEW ROLE WHEN DETAILS ARE KNOWN.

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COINAGE LAW TO BE LOCALISED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED TO LOCALISE THE LEGISLATION ON COINAGE WITH THE GAZETTING OF THE COINAGE BILL TODAY (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH SAID AT PRESENT THE ISSUE OF LEGAL TENDER COINS IN HONG KONG AND RELATED MATTERS WERE PROVIDED FOR IN A UNITED KINGDOM ORDER IN COUNCIL.

"IT IS NECESSARY TO ENACT PRIMARY LOCAL LEGISLATION ON COINAGE BEFORE 1997 BECAUSE THE ORDER IN COUNCIL WILL CEASE TO HAVE EFFECT ON JULY 1, 1997," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE ENACTMENT OF A LOCAL COINAGE ORDINANCE BEFORE 1997 TO VEST AUTHORITY FOR ISSUING COINS IN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO A SMOOTH TRANSITION.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE BILL ALSO MADE PROVISIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEMONETISATION OF THE ONE-CENT CURRENCY NOTE.

"BECAUSE OF ITS EXTREMELY LOW DENOMINATION, THE ONE-CENT NOTE HAS LITTLE PRACTICAL USE IN EVERYDAY TRANSACTIONS.

"THE BILL ADDRESSES A TECHNICAL PROBLEM ARISING FROM THE DEMONETISATION OF THE ONE-CENT NOTE," HE ADDED.

THE BILL IS SCHEDULED FOR INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT WEDNESDAY (JUNE 22).

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AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETS ON MONDAY

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MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS WILL MEET AT 4.15 PM NEXT MONDAY (JUNE 20) TO DISCUSS THE ADMINISTRATION'S FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE URBAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, EDINBURGH PLACE, CENTRAL.

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE REQUESTED TO RESERVE A SEAT BY TELEPHONING MR CHAN HO-KEUNG AT 829 6745 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

AS SEATING IS LIMITED, BOOKINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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IMPROVING QUALITY OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

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REFERRING TO RECENT PRESS REPORTS ON THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE WHOLE SCHOOL INSPECTION PROCEDURES ALONGSIDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOL QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT (QAU) PROPOSED BY A WORKING GROUP OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, AN EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH SPOKESMAN SAID BOTH PROPOSALS WERE IN FACT MOVING IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY CONDUCTS SEPARATE INSPECTIONS ON THE QUALITY OF TEACHING, THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING MANAGEMENT.

UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURES, INSPECTIONS COVERING ALL THREE AREAS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME SO AS TO PROVIDE AN OVERALL PICTURE OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE SCHOOL AS A WHOLE.

"RESULTS OF THE INSPECTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED IN WRITING TO THE SCHOOL.

"THE PROPOSAL IS PART OF THE ONGOING EFFORTS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS SCHOOL INSPECTIONS.

"SCHOOLS WILL BE CONSULTED TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE SAID IN PARALLEL WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT, THE PROPOSED QAU, A SMALL PROFESSIONAL UNIT LOCATED OUTSIDE THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WOULD STUDY THE QUALITY OF SCHOOL AS AN INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY.

"IT WILL THUS PERFORM AN EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT ROLE COMPLEMENTARY TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S INSPECTIONS. THE RESULTS WILL BE PUBLISHED AND MADE AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE NOT ONLY TO THE SCHOOL CONCERNED BUT ALSO TO OTHER SCHOOLS.

"OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, SUCH ASSESSMENTS WOULD PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC WITH BENCHMARKS ON THE QUALITY ATTAINMENT OF OUR SCHOOL EDUCATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

"WHILE THE TWO PROPOSALS HAVE DIFFERENT ROLES AND OBJECTIVES, BOTH ARE CONCERNED WITH THE QUALITY OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND ARE THUS COMPLEMENTARY TO EACH OTHER," THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED.

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TRANSCRIPT OF CHIEF SECRETARY'S MEDIA SESSION

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FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING TODAY (FRIDAY).

QUESTION: VIOLATED THE JOINT DECLARATION AND SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE JLG?

CHIEF SECRETARY: I THINK THIS IS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY. AS YOU KNOW OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE BECOME MORE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT AND THE QUESTION OF EMBARKING ON AN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF PRACTICE IS SIMPLY A FURTHER MOVE TOWARDS MAKING THE WHOLE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY MORE TRANSPARENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF THE COMMUNITY. WE DO NOT SEE THAT THERE IS ANY CONTRAVENTION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

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FUNDS FOR INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT PROJECTS APPROVED

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (FRIDAY) APPROVED \$128 MILLION TO CONDUCT THREE INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT PROJECTS RECOMMENDED BY THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ITDC).

THE AMOUNT WILL BE ALLOCATED FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S \$180 MILLION ADDITIONAL FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS, TO BE PROVIDED YEARLY, AIM AT SUPPORTING INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS THAT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL INDUSTRIAL OR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AND TO THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MISS DENISE YUE, SAID ONE OF THE THREE PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE INVOLVED THE USE OF \$83.9 MILLION BY THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (HKPC) TO SET UP A TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRODUCT TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE.

"THE CENTRE WILL PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SERVICES AND UNDERTAKE APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND RELATED AREAS.

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"IT IS HOPED THAT THE CENTRE WILL MEET THE NEED OF LOCAL ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY FOR AN APPLIED RESEARCH FACILITY, AS IDENTIFIED IN THE 1992/93 TECHNO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET RESEARCH STUDY ON HONG KONG'S ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY COMMISSIONED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT," SHE SAID.

MISS YUE SAID THE SECOND PROJECT INVOLVED THE USE OF \$29.85 MILLION BY THE HKPC AND CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG TO SET UP A RAPID PROTOTYPING CENTRE.

"THE CENTRE WILL PROVIDE MANUFACTURERS WITH RAPID PROTOTYPING AND RELATED SERVICES, SUCH AS TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, SO THAT THEY CAN RESPOND MORE QUICKLY TO MARKET DEMANDS BY REDUCING THE LEAD TIME IN THE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PRODUCTS.

"THE THIRD PROJECT, WHICH INVOLVES THE USE OF SOME \$14.4 MILLION BY THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO SET UP A LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY (LCD) RESEARCH CENTRE, AIMS TO ASSIST LOCAL LCD MANUFACTURERS TO ACQUIRE THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY OF MANUFACTURING HIGH-END LCDS, HENCE ENABLING THEM TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GROWING MARKET FOR HIGH-END AND HIGH RESOLUTION LCDS.

"IT WILL ALSO LESSEN THE RELIANCE OF LOCAL ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY ON HIGH-END LCDS FROM OVERSEAS COUNTRIES, WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATIONS IN PRICE AND SUPPLY," SHE ADDED.

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UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY - APRIL

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THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY TO APRIL THIS YEAR WAS 2.1%, AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.5%, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH TO MAY 1994 WAS 2.2%, WHILE THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.5%.

THE LATEST FIGURES SUGGEST THAT THE LABOUR MARKET HAS REMAINED GENERALLY TIGHT IN RECENT MONTHS.

DURING THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY TO APRIL 1994, THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, ADJUSTED FOR VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS, WAS ESTIMATED AT 62,000, WHILE THE NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS ESTIMATED AT 43,800.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY FOR FEBRUARY TO APRIL 1994 COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 12,300 HOUSEHOLDS OR 42,400 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

RELEVANT DATA WAS OBTAINED BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH THIS YEAR WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE BY THE END OF THIS MONTH, AT \$24 A COPY.

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LAND REGISTRY TO INTRODUCE DIRECT ACCESS SERVICES

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THE LAND REGISTRY WILL INTRODUCE A FULLY COMPUTERISED DIRECT SEARCH FACILITY ON URBAN LAND REGISTERS - THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE TERRITORY - IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT OF \$2 MILLION FOR THE PROVISION OF NETWORK SERVICES FOR THE SEARCH FACILITY WAS SIGNED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE LAND REGISTRAR, MR KENNETH PANG TSAN-WING, AND THE GENERAL MANAGER (HONG KONG) OF IBM CHINA/HONG KONG CORPORATION, MR PAUL MOUNG.

SPEAKING AT THE CONTRACT-SIGNING CEREMONY, MR PANG DESCRIBED THE NEW DIRECT ACCESS SEARCH FACILITY, KNOWN AS DIRECT ACCESS SERVICES, AS A MAJOR STEP IN IMPROVING EFFICIENCY.

"ALL FIRMS DEALING WITH LAND TRANSACTIONS SHOULD CONSIDER TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS HIGHLY CONVENIENT AND SPEEDY SERVICES," HE SAID.

THE NEW SERVICE WILL ENABLE CUSTOMERS TO MAKE ON-LINE SEARCHES OF LAND RECORDS THROUGH COMPUTER TERMINALS AT THEIR OWN OFFICES.

"ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS SIMPLY KEYING IN THE ADDRESS OR LOT NUMBER OF THE PROPERTY THEY WANT TO SEARCH. THE INFORMATION ON THE PROPERTY WILL APPEAR ON THEIR SCREENS AND CAN BE PRINTED OUT FROM THEIR OWN PRINTERS," HE EXPLAINED.

"THE NEW SERVICE WILL ALSO ENABLE CUSTOMERS TO PLACE ORDERS FOR COPIES OF LAND RECORDS WITHOUT CALLING AT THE LAND REGISTRY'S SEARCH COUNTERS IN PERSON," HE ADDED.

THE DIRECT ACCESS SERVICES PROJECT IS NOW IN THE FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION AND THIS NEW SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

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GOVERNMENT CONSULTS ON LIST OF TRUSTEE INVESTMENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ISSUED A CONSULTATIVE PAPER ON PROPOSALS TO REVISE THE LIST OF AUTHORISED INVESTMENTS UNDER THE TRUSTEE ORDINANCE.

VIEWS AND COMMENTS ARE INVITED ON THE PROPOSALS UNTIL THE END OF NEXT MONTH (JULY).

"THE STATUTORY LIST OF INVESTMENTS IS IMPORTANT FOR TRUSTEES WHO DO NOT HAVE SPECIFIC INVESTMENT POWERS UNDER A TRUST INSTRUMENT, OR WHERE THERE IS NO TRUST INSTRUMENT," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"THE EXISTING LIST IS OUT OF DATE. THE LIST OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE, RELIES VERY HEAVILY ON A LIMITED RANGE OF UK AND COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT PRODUCTS.

"THERE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN FINANCIAL MARKETS GENERALLY, AND IN THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN HONG KONG SINCE THE LIST WAS LAST REVISED IN 1984.

"THE CURRENT LIST IS ALSO IN NEED OF SIMPLIFICATION AND RATIONALISATION," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE PERMITTED INVESTMENTS ARE SPECIFIED IN THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE TRUSTEE ORDINANCE.

A WORKING PARTY WAS SET UP UNDER THE FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH TO REVIEW ASPECTS OF THE TRUSTEE ORDINANCE.

THE WORKING PARTY IS PROPOSING TO REPLACE THE EXISTING LIST OF INVESTMENTS WITH A REVISED LIST WHICH IDENTIFIES VARIOUS BROAD CATEGORIES OF INVESTMENTS.

THE CATEGORIES ARE: CORPORATE SECURITIES, DEBT SECURITIES OF GOVERNMENTS AND MULTILATERAL AGENCIES, MUTUAL FUNDS AND UNIT TRUSTS, CASH AND MONEY MARKET INVESTMENTS, FIRST LEGAL MORTGAGE OF PROPERTY, AND ALSO DERIVATIVES FOR HEDGING PURPOSES ONLY.

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, INVESTMENTS IN PROPERTY AND DERIVATIVES WOULD BE CONSIDERED TO BE LESS SECURE THAN THE OTHER TYPES OF INVESTMENTS.

"THE INCLUSION OF THESE CATEGORIES IS TENTATIVE AT THIS STAGE. WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR ON THE DESIRABILITY OF INCLUDING THESE ITEMS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE PROPOSED REVISED LIST HAS RETAINED THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE EXISTING SCHEDULE THAT ARE STILL RELEVANT, BUT HAS BEEN RATIONALISED CONSIDERABLY.

"IT IS ALSO CAPABLE OF BEING UPDATED AUTOMATICALLY, BECAUSE IT REFERS TO OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION THAT ARE UPDATED ON A REGULAR BASIS," HE ADDED.

UNDER THE PROPOSED REVISIONS, CREDIT RATINGS WILL BE AN ESSENTIAL CRITERION USED TO DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF AN INVESTMENT.

LISTED CORPORATE DEBT SECURITIES, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL NEED TO MEET QUALIFYING CREDIT RATINGS AND DEBT SECURITIES OF GOVERNMENT OR MULTILATERAL AGENCIES WILL NEED TO MEET QUALIFYING SOVEREIGN/SUPRANATIONAL RATINGS.

PERMITTED INVESTMENTS IN SHARES WILL BE RESTRICTED TO THOSE OF COMPANIES WITH A SUBSTANTIAL MARKET CAPITALISATION OR ISSUED AND FULLY PAID-UP SHARE CAPITAL.

THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATIVE EXERCISE WILL HAVE A BEARING ON WHICH OF THESE TWO INDICATIONS OF FINANCIAL STRENGTH IS ADOPTED IN THE FINAL SCHEDULE.

BUT IN EITHER CASE, AUTHORISED INVESTMENTS WILL IN EFFECT BE RESTRICTED TO SHARES OF "BLUE-CHIP" COMPANIES.

COPIES OF THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH (TEL: 528 9077 OR FAX: 528 3345).

COMMENTS CAN BE SENT TO FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH, ROOM 1802, 18TH FLOOR, ADMIRALTY CENTRE TOWER I, 18 HARCOURT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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SHA TAU KOK ROAD TO BE IMPROVED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO IMPROVE THE SECTION OF SHA TAU KOK ROAD BETWEEN LUNG YEUK TAU AND PING CHE ROAD JUNCTION TO CATER FOR THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN TRAFFIC AND TO ENHANCE ROAD SAFETY.

THE WORK WILL INCLUDE IMPROVING AND WIDENING THE EXISTING ROAD TO A DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY WITH PROVISION OF FOOTPATHS AND CYCLE TRACK ALONGSIDE THE ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONTROLLED CROSS-ROAD JUNCTION, PEDESTRIAN CROSSING POINTS AND TWO ROUNDABOUTS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED TO IMPROVE THE LOCAL TRAFFIC CIRCULATION.

A NEW FOOTBRIDGE WILL BE BUILT NEAR THE ACCESS ROAD TO MA LIU SHUI SAN TSUEN TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ONE AND THE DRAINAGE PROVISION IN THE AREA WILL ALSO BE UPGRADED.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME OF THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, NORTH, SIXTH FLOOR, NORTH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 3 PIK FUNG ROAD, FANLING, NEW TERRITORIES; AND

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1994

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* THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, THIRD FLOOR, NORTH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 3 PIK FUNG ROAD, FANLING, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE WORKS OR THE USE, OR BOTH, IS REQUIRED TO SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 16.

SHA TAU KOK ROAD IS AN IMPORTANT ROAD IN THE NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES LINKING FANLING AND THE BORDER AT SHA TAU KOK.

THE SECTION OF THE ROAD BETWEEN FANLING JOCKEY CLUB ROAD AND LUNG YEUK TAU WAS IMPROVED AND UPGRADED TO DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY STANDARD TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASING TRAFFIC DEMAND BECAUSE OF THE RAPID LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA.

THE EXISTING SECTION OF SHA TAU KOK ROAD BETWEEN LUNG YEUK TAU AND PING CHE ROAD JUNCTION IS ABOUT 2.5 KILOMETRES LONG AND IS A SUB-STANDARD SINGLE TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY OF BETWEEN SIX TO SEVEN METRES WIDE.

AT PRESENT, THE ROAD CAPACITY HAS NEARLY REACHED SATURATION AT PEAK HOURS AND FREQUENT STOP-GO SITUATION ARE BEING EXPERIENCED DUE TO CROSS-ROAD MOVEMENTS AND ON-STREET LOADING ACTIVITIES.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT TRAFFIC ALONG THIS SECTION OF SHA TAU KOK ROAD WILL INCREASE AS A RESULT OF THE OPERATION OF THE NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL, THE INCREASE IN CROSS BORDER TRAFFIC AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO IMPROVE AND WIDEN THE ROAD.

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TRADE DEPARTMENT HOLDS POLLS FOR BEST SERVICE AWARDS

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PEOPLE USING THE VARIOUS SERVICES OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT MAY PICK THEIR OWN WINNERS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S BEST SERVICE AWARDS OVER THE NEXT EIGHT WEEKS.

IN VOTING FOR WINNERS OF THE AWARDS, THEY THEMSELVES WILL ALSO STAND A CHANCE OF WINNING ATTRACTIVE PRIZES.

THESE ARE THE FEATURES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S BEST SERVICE AWARD SCHEME WHICH AIMS AT ENCOURAGING FRONTLINE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

ANNOUNCING THE DETAILS TODAY (FRIDAY), THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, TOLD A STAFF GATHERING THAT THE SCHEME ALSO AIMED AT GIVING RECOGNITION TO COLLEAGUES WHO HAD GIVEN MERITORIOUS SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

"IN ADDITION, THE SCHEME PROVIDES A CONVENIENT CHANNEL FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TO SHOW THEIR APPRECIATION OF THE COURTEOUS AND EFFICIENT SERVICES BY OUR STAFF.

/"IT FORMS

"IT FORMS PART OF OUR ACTIVITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE SECOND PHASE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGE," HE SAID.

THE SCHEME BEGINS ON MONDAY (JUNE 20) AND WILL LAST UNTIL AUGUST 19. USERS OF THE SERVICES MAY VOTE IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITY FOR STAFF MEMBERS WHO THEY THINK DESERVE THE AWARDS.

"WE CORDIALLY INVITE THEM TO VOTE; THEY MAY VOTE FOR MORE THAN ONE STAFF MEMBER, BUT TO ENSURE FAIRNESS, EACH OF THEM MAY NOT CAST MORE THAN ONE VOTE FOR THE SAME STAFF," SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

"TRADE DEPARTMENT STAFF AND THEIR RELATIVES MAY NOT VOTE.

"ALL DEPARTMENTAL STAFF WHOSE OFFICIAL DUTIES INVOLVE PUBLIC CONTACTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION; THE WINNERS WILL BE ELECTED ENTIRELY BY THE USERS.

"AWARDS WILL BE BASED ON MERITS OF THE STAFF IN FOUR CATEGORIES -EFFICIENT, KNOWLEDGEABLE, EAGER TO HELP AND POLITE."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID VOTING FORMS COULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICES ON B1, G, M, 2ND, 3RD, 8TH AND 18TH FLOORS OF TRADE DEPARTMENT TOWER AT 700 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

"COMPLETED FORMS MAY BE PUT IN BALLOT BOXES WHICH WILL BE PLACED ON THESE FLOORS, OR THEY CAN BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT BY FAX ON NO. 396 9899.

"TO ENCOURAGE VOTING, THE DEPARTMENT WILL SELECT FIVE VOTERS IN A LUCKY DRAW IN SEPTEMBER AND EACH WILL RECEIVE AN ATTRACTIVE PRIZE.

"BEST SERVICE AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN TO FIVE INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VOTES, AND TO TWO DIVISIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VOTES PER STAFF," HE SAID.

THE BEST SERVICE AWARD SCHEME IS SPONSORED BY THE TEXTILE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG.

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EDUCATION COMMISSION DELEGATION LEAVES FOR
EUROPEAN STUDY TOUR

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A SEVEN-STRONG DELEGATION OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION LEAVES TONIGHT (FRIDAY) FOR A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO HOLLAND AND BELGIUM.

"THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS TO STUDY HOW OTHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS TACKLE ISSUES OF LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY, QUALITY ASSURANCE AND SCHOOL FUNDING," EXPLAINED PROFESSOR ROSIE YOUNG, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, WHO LEADS THE DELEGATION.

/OTHER MEMBERS

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ARE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION AND SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG; CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUP ON LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY, MRS ANGELA CHEUNG; CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS, DR CHENG KAI-MING; MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION DR ALEX FUNG AND MS SANSAN CHING, AND THE COMMISSION'S SECRETARY AND PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR CHRIS GODWIN.

"THE COMMISSION IS CURRENTLY STUDYING LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY, QUALITY ASSURANCE AND SCHOOL FUNDING," SAID PROFESSOR YOUNG.

"THIS TRIP SHOULD GIVE US MANY USEFUL INSIGHTS AS WE DEVELOP POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT LATER THIS YEAR."

"THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT MONTH FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION," MRS ANGELA CHEUNG SAID.

"FIRST-HAND VISITS TO SEE WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE ACHIEVING IN THE AREA OF LANGUAGE EDUCATION SHOULD PROVIDE USEFUL REFERENCES FOR THE COMMISSION WHEN IT CONSIDERS PUBLIC RESPONSES TO THE WORKING GROUP'S REPORT," SHE SAID.

DR CHENG KAI-MING SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH THE DUTCH AND BELGIAN EDUCATION AUTHORITIES ABOUT SCHOOL QUALITY ISSUES.

"I SHALL REPORT BACK TO MY WORKING GROUP, SO THAT WE CAN CONSIDER WHAT USEFUL POINTS CAN BE INCLUDED IN OUR REPORT, WHICH WE HOPE TO PUBLISH IN SEPTEMBER," HE SAID.

PROFESSOR YOUNG, WHO ALSO CHAIRS THE WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL FUNDING, NOTED THAT HOLLAND WAS INTRODUCING CHANGES TO ITS SCHOOL FUNDING PROCEDURES TO GIVE SCHOOLS MORE FLEXIBILITY.

"IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO TALK TO SCHOOLS AND MINISTRY PERSONNEL ABOUT THE PROCESS OF CHANGE," SHE SAID. "WE EXPECT TO PUBLISH OUR REPORT ON SCHOOL FUNDING AT THE END OF THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT YEAR."

THE DELEGATION WILL SPEND TWO DAYS IN HOLLAND, DISCUSSING ISSUES WITH SENIOR STAFF AT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE AND VISITING SCHOOLS, AND WILL THEN TRAVEL TO BRUSSELS.

THE THREE-DAY PROGRAMME IN BELGIUM INCLUDES DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE FLEMISH-SPEAKING AND FRENCH-SPEAKING EDUCATION MINISTRIES, VISITS TO SCHOOLS, AND A VISIT TO A COMPUTER-ASSISTED LANGUAGE LEARNING PROJECT IN ANTWERP.

JOINT OPERATION TO WEED OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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A TERRITORY-WIDE, ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATION JOINTLY MOUNTED BY THE POLICE, AND THE LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF 166 PEOPLE.

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

THE 164 SUSPECTED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED BY THE POLICE HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT. THOSE FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED.

THE OTHER TWO PERSONS WERE ARRESTED BY IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (FRIDAY) 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 HIMSELF," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT APART FROM CONTINUOUS CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WAS NO LET-UP IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AT THE BORDER.

"A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BORDERS," HE SAID.

DURING THE JOINT OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN AT 5 AM YESTERDAY (THURSDAY) AND ENDED AT 5 AM TODAY, THE POLICE HAD STEPPED UP THEIR IDENTIFICATION SPOT CHECKS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND CARRIED OUT CHECKS AT SUSPICIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

ON THE LABOUR FRONT, INSPECTORS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT VISITED 2,373 ESTABLISHMENTS TO WEED OUT ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO MAY BE WORKING, AND TO CHECK THAT EMPLOYERS FULFIL THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATION OF KEEPING PROPER RECORDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

A TOTAL OF 7,196 EMPLOYEES HAD THEIR PROOF OF IDENTITY CHECKED.

TWENTY-FOUR ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FOUND NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE A RECORD OF EMPLOYEES FOR INSPECTION.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY COULD BE FINED UP TO \$250,000 AND JAILED FOR UP TO THREE YEARS IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

NEW FEE FOR MARICULTURE LICENCE

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THE FEE FOR THE GRANT OR RENEWAL OF MARINE FISH CULTURE LICENCES WILL BE REVISED IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

TO BE EFFECTIVE ON OCTOBER 20, THE NEW FEE WILL BE \$7.40 FOR EACH SQUARE METRE OF LICENSED MARINE FISH CULTURE SITE AREA.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE LICENCE FEE, LAST REVISED IN 1989, IS ADJUSTED TO RECOVER A GREATER PROPORTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF LICENSING.

"THE REVISED FEE WILL REPRESENT LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF A TYPICAL FISH FARM," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE REVISED FEE HAD BEEN DERIVED UNDER A NEW AND FAIRER CALCULATION METHOD WHICH WAS WELCOMED BY THE INDUSTRY.

THE MARINE FISH CULTURE (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1994, WHICH SETS OUT THE FEE REVISION, WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

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SEWAGE CONTRACT SIGNED

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) SIGNED A \$116 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DIAPHRAGM WALLS FOR A MAIN PUMPING STATION ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

THE CONTRACT, THE THIRD AWARDED UNDER THE STAGE I OF THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME (SSDS), WAS SIGNED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES (TRADING FUND), MR CHUNG KWOK-LEUNG, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTRACTOR, LEIGHTON CONTRACTORS (ASIA) LIMITED.

THE MAIN FUNCTION OF STAGE I OF THE SCHEME IS TO COLLECT AND TREAT SEWAGE FROM KOWLOON BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND TSEUNG KWAN O AND FROM THE NORTH EASTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

ON COMPLETION, THE WATER QUALITY IN VICTORIA HARBOUR WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED.

CONSTRUCTION IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS MONTH FOR COMPLETION IN MAY NEXT YEAR.

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FOUR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLANS APPROVED

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA (DPA) PLANS FOR TAI TONG, FU TEI AU AND SHA LING, KAU LUNG HANG, AND SHA KOK MEI.

TAI TONG DPA COVERS AREAS NEAR YUEN LONG NEW TOWN WHILE FU TEI AU AND SHA LING DPA AND KAU LUNG HANG DPA COVER AREAS NEAR SHEUNG SHUI AND TAI PO NEW TOWNS. SHA KOK MEI DPA COVERS AREAS NEAR SAI KUNG.

THESE RURAL AREAS HAVE AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL FARMING AS THE MAJOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS GROWING OF VEGETABLES, FRUIT TREES AND FLOWERS, RURAL INDUSTRIES AND OPEN STORAGE USES.

IN RECENT YEARS, LOTS OF FALLOW AGRICULTURAL LANDS HAVE BEEN CONVERTED TO OPEN STORAGE SITES AND CAR REPAIRING AND DUMPING YARDS.

"THESE UNCO-ORDINATED USES HAVE CAUSED GENERAL DEGRADATION TO THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT. THE PUBLICATION OF THE DPA PLANS PROVIDES PROPER PLANNING CONTROL AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDANCE FOR THE RURAL AREAS.

"ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS COULD BE UNDERTAKEN AGAINST UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT WITH THE DPAS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

A MAIN FEATURE OF THE TAI TONG PLAN IS THE DESIGNATION OF ABOUT 17 HECTARES FOR "OPEN STORAGE", REPRESENTING ABOUT SIX PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LAND AREA DESIGNATED FOR SUCH USE IN ALL DPAS.

WITHIN THIS ZONE, OPEN STORAGE USES HAVING NO ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT WOULD BE PERMITTED.

THOSE USES THAT MAY CAUSE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, SUCH AS CAR-BREAKING ACTIVITY AND DANGEROUS GOODS STORAGE, WOULD REQUIRE PLANNING PERMISSION FROM THE BOARD.

ABOUT 10 HECTARES OF LAND ARE ZONED "COUNTRY PARK". DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THIS ZONE IS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY.

ON THE SHA KOK MEI DPA PLAN, A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF ABOUT 197 HECTARES OF LAND IS ZONED "GREEN BELT" TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

SMALL-SCALE RECREATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL USES, SUCH AS CAMPING SITES AND PLANT NURSERIES, ARE ALWAYS PERMITTED.

LARGE-SCALE RECREATIONAL AND GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY USES, SUCH AS HOLIDAY CAMPS AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS, MAY BE PERMITTED UPON APPLICATION TO THE BOARD.

TO CATER FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, ABOUT FOUR HECTARES ARE ZONED "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP C)" FOR LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH A DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTION OF MAXIMUM PLOT RATIO RANGING FROM 0.6 TO 0.4, SITE COVERAGE FROM 30 PER CENT TO 20 PER CENT AND TWO STOREYS OVER ONE LEVEL OF CARPORT.

ANOTHER 44 HECTARES ARE ZONED "VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT" FOR EXISTING AND FUTURE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT.

ON THE KAU LUNG HANG DPA PLAN, ABOUT SIX HECTARES OF LAND ARE ZONED "OTHER SPECIFIED USES" FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE EXISTING RAILWAY ROUTE, NINE HECTARES FOR "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" USES AND 46 HECTARES FOR VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT.

THERE ARE ALSO ABOUT 197 HECTARES OF "UNSPECIFIED USE" AREAS. WITH THESE AREAS, ALL DEVELOPMENTS, EXCEPT THOSE PERMITTED UNDER THE NOTES OF THE PLAN, REQUIRE PERMISSION FROM THE BOARD.

SIMILARLY ON THE FU TEI AU AND SHA LING DPA PLAN, ABOUT 80 HECTARES ARE ZONED "GREEN BELT", 13 HECTARES "VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT" AND 19 HECTARES "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY".

THERE ARE ALSO ABOUT 241 HECTARES OF THE AREA DESIGNATED AS "UNSPECIFIED USE" AREAS.

THE FOUR APPROVED PLANS ARE PUT UP FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION UNTIL JUNE 24 AT THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL.

THEY ARE ALSO ON SHOW SEPARATELY AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

TAI TONG DPA PLAN

YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE,
GROUND FLOOR, YUEN LONG DISTRICT
OFFICES BUILDING,
269 CASTLE PEAK ROAD,
YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES; AND

TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT
PLANNING OFFICE,
LEVEL 11, METROPLAZA TOWER 1,
223 HING FONG ROAD,
KWAI FONG, NEW TERRITORIES.

FU TEI AU &

SHA LING DPA PLAN

NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE,
THIRD FLOOR, NORTH DISTRICT
GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
3 PIK FUNG ROAD,
FANLING, NEW TERRITORIES; AND

SHA TIN AND NORTH EAST DISTRICT
PLANNING OFFICES,
GROUND FLOOR, SHA TIN GOVERNMENT
OFFICES,
6 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD,
TAI WAI, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES.

KAU LUNG HANG DPA PLAN

TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE,
TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING,
1 TING KOK ROAD,
TAI PO, NEW TERRITORIES; AND

SHA TIN AND NORTH EAST DISTRICT
PLANNING OFFICES,
GROUND FLOOR, SHA TIN GOVERNMENT
OFFICES,
6 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD,
TAI WAI, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES.

SHA KOK MEI DPA PLAN

SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE,
SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT
OFFICES BUILDING,
34 CHAN MAN STREET,
SAI KUNG, NEW TERRITORIES; AND

SAI KUNG & TSEUNG KWAN O DISTRICT
PLANNING OFFICES,
SUITE 1209, 12TH FLOOR, CHINACHEM
GOLDEN PLAZA,
MODY ROAD, KOWLOON.

COPIES OF THE APPROVED DPA PLANS ARE ON SALE AT THE SURVEY AND
MAPPING OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN
ROAD, AND THE KOWLOON MAP SALES OFFICE, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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FOUR RURAL OUTLINE ZONING PLANS PUBLISHED

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE
PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT SHEK KONG, PAT HEUNG, KAM TIN SOUTH AND KAM
TIN NORTH OUTLINE ZONING PLANS (OZP).

THE RURAL OZPS ARE TO REPLACE THE EXISTING DEVELOPMENT
PERMISSION AREA (DPA) PLANS COVERING THE SAME AREAS. THEY INDICATE
DEFINITE AND COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE ZONES TO GUIDE AND CONTROL
DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREAS.

"SIMILAR TO DPA PLANS, UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE
OZPS ARE SUBJECT TO ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD
SAID.

"ALL THE FOUR OZPS AIM AT RETAINING THE RURAL CHARACTER OF, AND
GOOD AGRICULTURAL LAND IN, THE RESPECTIVE AREAS, AND DIRECTING
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIGHT PLACES. THEY ALSO ENCOURAGE
EXISTING INDUSTRIES TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND IN DESIGNATED AREAS," HE
ADDED.

TO PRESERVE THE EXISTING AGRICULTURAL LAND, "AGRICULTURE"
ZONES, TOTALLY SOME 844 HECTARES, HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED ON THE FOUR
OZPS.

/"CONSERVATION AREA"

"CONSERVATION AREA" HAS ALSO BEEN ZONED TO RETAIN THE NATURAL CHARACTER OF THE AREAS AND TO GIVE ADDED PROTECTION TO THE ADJOINING COUNTRY PARKS.

THESE INCLUDE ABOUT 219 HECTARES IN SHEK KONG, 156 HECTARES IN PAT HEUNG, 272 HECTARES IN KAM TIN SOUTH AND 62 HECTARES IN KAM TIN NORTH.

WITHIN THESE ZONES, USES RELATED TO CONSERVATION PURPOSES SUCH AS FIELD STUDY CENTRE, EDUCATION CENTRE AND VISITOR CENTRE ARE PERMITTED AS OF RIGHT.

USES WHICH WOULD HAVE INSIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE MIGHT BE PERMITTED UPON APPROVAL BY THE BOARD.

ABOUT EIGHT HECTARES OF LAND IN KAM TIN SOUTH AND 19 HECTARES IN KAM TIN NORTH HAVE BEEN ZONED AS "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP C)" TO FACILITATE LOW-RISE LOW-DENSITY DEVELOPMENT.

ON THE KAM TIN SOUTH OZP, DEVELOPMENT IS RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM PLOT RATIO OF 0.8, SITE COVERAGE OF 20 PER CENT AND BUILDING HEIGHT OF FOUR STOREYS (12 METRES).

ON THE KAM TIN NORTH OZP, DEVELOPMENT IS RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM PLOT RATIO RANGING FROM 0.4 TO 0.8, SITE COVERAGE OF 20 PER CENT AND BUILDING HEIGHT RANGING FROM THREE TO FOUR STOREYS (NINE TO 10 METRES).

TO IMPROVE AND UPGRADE THE EXISTING DOMESTIC ACCOMMODATION IN THE AREAS, "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP D)" ZONES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED.

THESE COMPRISE 35 HECTARES IN SHEK KONG, 48 HECTARES IN PAT HEUNG, 36 HECTARES IN KAM TIN SOUTH AND 21 HECTARES IN KAM TIN NORTH.

LOW-RISE LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE ZONES MAY BE PERMITTED ON APPLICATION TO THE BOARD.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR THE OPERATION AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING RURAL INDUSTRIES, ABOUT 10 HECTARES ARE ZONED EACH ON THE SHEK KONG AND KAM TIN NORTH OZPS.

NEW INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IS RESTRICTED TO MAXIMUM SITE COVERAGE OF 80 PER CENT, PLOT RATIO OF 1.6, BUILDING HEIGHT OF 13 METRES AND THE MINIMUM PROVISION OF ONE LORRY/VISITOR PARKING SPACE PER ESTABLISHMENT OR ONE PARKING SPACE FOR EVERY 900 SQUARE METRES GROSS FLOOR AREA OF THE ESTABLISHMENT.

ON THE PAT HEUNG OZP, ABOUT 51 HECTARES ARE ZONED "OPEN STORAGE" TO CATER FOR DEMAND OF SUCH USES IN THE AREA.

OPEN STORAGE USES WHICH ARE UNLIKELY TO CAUSE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OR TRANSPORT PROBLEMS ARE ALWAYS PERMITTED IN THIS ZONE.

USES WHICH MAY CAUSE ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCE OR SAFETY HAZARDS HOWEVER WILL REQUIRE PERMISSION FROM THE BOARD.

ON ALL THE FOUR OZPS, THERE ARE ALSO AREAS ZONED FOR "VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT", "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY", "GREEN BELT" AND "OPEN SPACE".

THE FOUR DRAFT OZPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION UNTIL AUGUST 17 AT:

- * PLANNING DEPARTMENT,
16TH FLOOR, MURAY BUIDLING,
GARDEN ROAD,
HONG KONG;
- * TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE,
11TH FLOOR, METROPLAZA TOWER 1,
223 HING FONG ROAD,
KWAI FONG,
NEW TERRITORIES; AND
- * YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE,
YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING,
269 CASTLE PEAK ROAD,
YUEN LONG,
NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE FOUR DRAFT PLANS MAY SUBMIT WRITTEN OBJECTION ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 17 TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 13TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, AND KOWLOON MAP SALES OFFICE, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR TSEUNG KWAN O SERVICE RESERVOIR

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FRESH WATER SERVICE RESERVOIR WITH A CAPACITY OF 36,500 CUBIC METRES IN PAK SHING KOK AND THE LAYING OF ABOUT SIX KILOMETRES OF WATER PIPES IN TSEUNG KWAN O NEW TOWN.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER. UPON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT IN LATE 1996, THE INCREASING DEMANDS FOR FRESH WATER IN TSEUNG KWAN O NEW TOWN, TSEUNG KWAN O INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AS WELL AS OTHER AREAS IN SIU CHIK SHA AND TAI CHIK SHA CAN BE MET.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, IMMIGRATION TOWER, 44TH FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

TENDER OFFER WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON JULY 15.

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CLOSURE OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES SOUGHT

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE TWO UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN YAU MA TEI AND TWO IN TSUEN WAN SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE OCCUPANTS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE SINGLE-STOREY STRUCTURES ON THE ROOFS OF 121 AND 123 PARKES STREET ARE USED FOR DWELLING.

NOTICES APPLYING FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON NOVEMBER 9 WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (FRIDAY).

IN TSUEN WAN, THE SINGLE-STOREY RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES ARE ON THE ROOFS OF TWO BUILDINGS, ONE AT 10-22 TSUEN WAN MARKET STREET AND 22-26 CHUEN LUNG STREET, AND THE OTHER AT 21-25 TSUEN WAN MARKET STREET AND 9-13 CHUEN LUNG STREET.

TWO NOTICES APPLYING FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON OCTOBER 19 WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY.

DEMOLITION WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,067	0930	-60
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,478	1000	-60
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-9
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-9	1200	-9
LAF TODAY	+420	1500	-9
		1600	-9
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER	TWI 124.4	*+0.1*	17.6.94

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.93	17 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.12	5.61
1 MONTH	3.91	23 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.71	6.04
3 MONTHS	4.13	28 MONTHS	3610	4.20	95.45	6.40
6 MONTHS	4.56	31 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.65	6.54
12 MONTHS	5.19	34 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.97	6.65

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 12,849 MN

CLOSED 17 JUNE 1994

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