

## Ban urged on drinking by minors

**P**EOPLE under 18 should be banned from drinking in public and buying alcohol from stores and markets, said Central and Western District Board member Chan Chit-kwai.

He told High Court Justice Bokhary's second inquiry into the Lan Kwai Fong disaster that the board had recommended the ban after a recent meeting.

He also called on police to arrest minors caught drinking in public.

Bokhary's inquiry is now looking at the causes of the New Year's Eve disaster which left 21 people dead and scores injured.

The inquiry recently produced an interim report backing greater powers for the police to control public gatherings and celebrations.

Yesterday's hearing was also told that a senior police officer would visit London next month to study crowd control by police at Trafalgar Square on New Year's Eve.

Britain set out an eight-point safety plan after two women were trampled to death and 500 other people hurt as thousands attempted to leave Trafalgar Square in 1983.

Assistant Commissioner Brian Wigley said the London visit was part of a plan to learn effective crowd control measures from overseas forces.