



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BILL ON RULES FOR VBP DETENTION CENTRES PASSED

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THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1989, WHICH PROVIDES FOR OPERATION OF A SET OF RULES SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO COVER THE TREATMENT OF VIETNAMESE IN DETENTION CENTRES, WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE BILL COMPLETED ITS PASSAGE THROUGH THE COUNCIL IN ONE SITTING.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID THE PROPOSED DETENTION CENTRE RULES WERE BASED ON THE EXISTING CLOSED CENTRE RULES WHICH HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE FOR THE CONTROL OF CONDUCT AND MAINTENANCE OF ORDER AND DISCIPLINE AMONGST VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN CLOSED CENTRES.

MR BARNES EXPLAINED THAT PRIOR TO JUNE 16 LAST YEAR, VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ARRIVING IN HONG KONG WERE AUTOMATICALLY GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS.

"UNDER SECTION 13C OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, PROVISION EXISTED FOR THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY TO MAKE RULES FOR SUCH REFUGEES," HE SAID.

"SINCE JUNE 16, 1988, HOWEVER, ALL VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ARRIVING IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN, AND ARE, TREATED AS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS UNLESS, AFTER SCREENING, THEY ARE ACCORDED REFUGEE STATUS.

"NO PROVISION CURRENTLY EXISTS FOR THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY TO MAKE RULES SPECIFICALLY FOR THESE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE."

MR BARNES POINTED OUT OVER 42,000 VIETNAMESE HAD ARRIVED IN HONG KONG SINCE JUNE 16 LAST YEAR AND A LARGE NUMBER OF DETENTION CENTRES HAD HAD TO BE ESTABLISHED TO COPE WITH THE INFLUX.

THESE CENTRES WERE GAZETTED UNDER THE FIRST SCHEDULE OF THE IMMIGRATION (PLACES OF DETENTION) ORDER WHICH ALLOWED SECTIONS OF THE PRISON RULES TO APPLY TO THE TREATMENT OF THE DETAINEES.

HOWEVER, THESE RULES DID NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATELY FOR THE CONTROL OF CONDUCT AND THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER AND DISCIPLINE IN THE DETENTION CENTRES.

BEFORE THE SET OF RULES COVERING THE TREATMENT OF VIETNAMESE IN DETENTION CENTRES COULD COME INTO EXISTENCE, MR BARNES SAID THE NECESSARY PROVISION TO ALLOW THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY TO MAKE THE RULES HAD TO BE INCLUDED IN THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

"THE BILL ACHIEVES THIS BY ADDING A NEW SECTION, 13H, TO THE ORDINANCE EMPOWERING THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY TO DESIGNATE PLACES AS DETENTION CENTRES FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, AND TO MAKE RULES FOR THE TREATMENT AND CONTROL OF DETAINEES AND FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SUCH CENTRES," HE SAID.

/MR BARNES

MR BARNES ALSO SAID MINOR MODIFICATIONS CLARIFIED PROVISIONS TAKEN FROM THE CLOSED CENTRE RULES AND REFLECTED THAT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE DETENTION CENTRES WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE POLICE AND CIVIL AID SERVICES IN ADDITION TO THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

"THE OPPORTUNITY HAS ALSO BEEN TAKEN TODAY TO RATIONALISE THE DESIGNATION OF DETENTION CENTRES BY CONSOLIDATING THEM IN A SINGLE ORDER SPECIFICALLY FOR DETENTION CENTRES," HE ADDED.

SPEAKING ON A COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 3 OF THE BILL, MR BARNES SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE RULES GOVERNING SEPARATE CONFINEMENT SPECIFIED THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH SEPARATE CONFINEMENT MIGHT TAKE PLACE.

"SEPARATE CONFINEMENT MAY BE PROVIDED FOR AS A PUNISHMENT UNDER THE NEW SECTION 13H(6)(A), BUT SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS THE PROTECTION OF A DETAINEE, MAY MEAN THAT SEPARATE CONFINEMENT IS REQUIRED IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES. THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE NEW SECTION 13H(6)(B).

"WHILST SEPARATE CONFINEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PUNISHMENT WOULD GENERALLY REFER TO INDIVIDUAL CONFINEMENT, SEPARATE CONFINEMENT FOR OTHER REASONS MAY ALSO INVOLVE A FAMILY OR A LARGER GROUP," HE SAID.

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BILL ON DETENTION CENTRES 'MATTER OF URGENCY'

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A BILL SEEKING TO PUT DETENTION CENTRES FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE UNDER PROPER DISCIPLINARY RULES COMPLETED ITS FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS IN ONE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTING TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AS COUNCILLORS REGARDED THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL A MATTER OF URGENCY.

THE CONVENER OF A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP SET UP TO STUDY THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1989, THE HON MARIA TAM, SAID THE GROUP REGARDED IT A NECESSITY TO EMPOWER THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY TO DESIGNATE DETENTION CENTRES FOR THE DETENTION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AND TO MAKE RULES FOR THE CONTROL OF CONDUCT AND THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER IN THESE DETENTION CENTRES.

"IT IS A HIGHLY UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF AFFAIRS THAT PAMPHLETS COULD BE BROUGHT INTO WHITEHEAD, CHI MA WAN AND SHEK KONG DETENTION CENTRES BY VISITORS TO INCITE THE DETAINEES TO GO ON A HUNGER STRIKE," MISS TAM SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT SINCE JUNE 16 LAST YEAR OVER 43,000 VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HAD ARRIVED IN HONG KONG AND MANY CENTRES WERE SET UP TO ACCOMMODATE THEM WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

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IN THESE NEW VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CENTRES, THERE WERE NO RULES TO ALLOW FOR THE CONTROL OF CONDUCT AND THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER AND DISCIPLINE AMONG VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, AND NO RULES TO PROVIDE FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY OF THE CENTRES.

"AT TIMES WE CAN SEE ON TELEVISION THAT FOODSTUFF AND OTHER MATTER WERE THROWN BY PERSONS OUTSIDE OF THE CAMP INTO THE CAMP GROUND. WE HAVE ALSO READ FROM THE NEWSPAPER ABOUT VII'S LEAVING THE CAMPS, WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE AUTHORITY, TO PURSUE THEIR ILLEGAL OR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES," MISS TAM SAID.

SHE SAID THAT HONG KONG HAD LONG BORNE THE BURDEN OF RECEIVING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND NOW VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ON OUR SHORES. AND IT WAS LEGCO MEMBERS' RESOLVE THAT FROM THESE SHORES THESE PEOPLE MUST DEPART.

"WHILE THE DETAINEES ARE STAYING HERE ON THE EXPENSES AND HOSPITALITY OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY, IT IS NOT MUCH TO ASK FOR THEIR RESPECT FOR PEACE AND GOOD ORDER IN THE CAMPS IN RETURN.

"AND IT MUST BE LEFT IN NO DOUBT THAT VISITORS AND WORKERS IN THESE CAMPS ARE UNDER OBLIGATION TO OBSERVE THE LAW," MISS TAM SAID.

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BILL INTENDED TO DETER MISUSE OF ID CARDS

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THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, WHICH IS INTENDED TO DETER THE MISUSE OF IDENTITY CARDS, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFERY BARNES, SAID THE TWO MAIN PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE WERE:

- * FIRST, TO MAKE IT AN OFFENCE FOR A PERSON TO HAVE IN HIS CUSTODY OR POSSESSION, WITHOUT LAWFUL AUTHORITY OR REASONABLE EXCUSE, AN IDENTITY CARD RELATING TO ANOTHER PERSON; AND
- * SECOND, TO MAKE CLEAR THE OFFENCE OF UNLAWFUL TRANSFER OF AN IDENTITY CARD TO ANOTHER PERSON.

MR BARNES SAID THE AMENDMENTS IN THE BILL WERE NECESSARY BECAUSE AN IDENTITY CARD WAS NO LONGER MERELY A PROOF OF IDENTITY; IT COULD ALSO BE USED AS A TRAVEL DOCUMENT INTO AND OUT OF HONG KONG.

"THIS IS AN INCENTIVE FOR RACKETEERS TO OBTAIN IDENTITY CARDS, BELONGING TO OTHERS, FOR DELIBERATE MISUSE BY IMPERSONATORS OR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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"IT IS HOPED THAT THIS NEW LEGISLATION AND THE HEAVY PENALTIES PROPOSED - A FINE OF \$20,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS ON SUMMARY CONVICTION, OR A FINE OF \$50,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR 10 YEARS ON CONVICTION ON INDICTMENT - WILL ACT BOTH AS AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT AND AS A MEANS OF PROSECUTING THOSE WHO ABUSE OUR IDENTITY CARD SYSTEM," HE SAID.

MR BARNES EXPLAINED THAT UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION THE POSSESSION, WITHOUT LAWFUL AUTHORITY OR REASONABLE EXCUSE, OF AN IDENTITY CARD RELATING TO ANOTHER PERSON, WAS NOT AN OFFENCE. USING IT, HOWEVER, WAS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS REGULATIONS.

"A LOOPHOLE THEREFORE EXISTS WHEN PERSONS CANNOT BE PROSECUTED WHO ARE FOUND WITH IDENTITY CARDS BELONGING TO OTHERS IN THEIR POSSESSION, AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THEIR HAVING USED THOSE CARDS.

"THIS IS CLEARLY UNDESIRABLE AND IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED IN CLAUSE 4(B) OF THE BILL TO MAKE POSSESSION ALSO AN OFFENCE.

"THE OPPORTUNITY IS ALSO TAKEN TO IMPOSE HEAVY PENALTIES AS A DETERRENT AGAINST SUCH ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID UNLAWFUL TRANSFER OF AN IDENTITY CARD BELONGING TO ANOTHER PERSON WAS AT PRESENT PUNISHABLE UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS REGULATIONS.

"THE OPPORTUNITY IS THEREFORE TAKEN IN CLAUSE 2 TO CLARIFY THE MEANING OF TRANSFER, AND TO MAKE IT AN OFFENCE IN THE NEW SECTION 7AA UNDER CLAUSE 5 OF THE BILL TO TRANSFER AN IDENTITY CARD UNLAWFULLY TO ANOTHER PERSON.

"AS A TIDYING-UP EXERCISE, THE VARIOUS EXISTING OFFENCES OF THE USE AND TRANSFER OF AN IDENTITY CARD BELONGING TO ANOTHER PERSON WITHOUT LAWFUL AUTHORITY OR REASONABLE EXCUSE WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE REGULATIONS TO THE MAIN ORDINANCE," HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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PROVISION FOR LEGCO TO VOTE FUNDS FOR HKTA SUBVENTION
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THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 PROVIDES FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO VOTE FUNDS FOR THE SUBVENTION OF THE ASSOCIATION, AND FOR THE ASSOCIATION TO SUBMIT ITS BUDGET AND PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES TO THE GOVERNOR FOR APPROVAL, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON ANSON CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE BOARD OF THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION TO OBSERVE CERTAIN PRESCRIBED ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES," MRS CHAN SAID IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

"THESE NEW SUBVENTION AND BUDGETARY ARRANGEMENTS WILL NOT IN ANY WAY DETRACT FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE VALUABLE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ASSOCIATION IN PROMOTING HONG KONG AS A TOURIST ATTRACTION."

MRS CHAN EXPLAINED THAT THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION WAS A STATUTORY BODY TASKED WITH PROMOTING HONG KONG AS A TOURIST DESTINATION.

"BETWEEN 1966 AND 1987 THE LEVEL OF SUBVENTION PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THE ASSOCIATION WAS LINKED TO THE YIELD FROM THE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION TAX, WHICH IS A LEVY OF FIVE PER CENT ON HOTEL ROOM RATES CHARGES," SHE SAID.

"THIS MEANT THAT THE LEVEL OF SUBVENTION WAS NOT NECESSARILY RELATED TO THE ACTUAL NEEDS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

"WHEN CONSIDERING THE 1986-7 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT, THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF THIS COUNCIL EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE HYPOTHECATION OF HOTEL ACCOMMODATION TAX IN THIS WAY."

THE COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION ORDINANCE BE AMENDED TO REQUIRE THE ASSOCIATION TO SUBMIT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL ITS ANNUAL BUDGET AND PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES.

"SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR OTHER COMPARABLE SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS LIKE THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL," SHE SAID.

"IN EARLY 1988, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WITH THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION FOR THE LINK BETWEEN THE LEVEL OF SUBVENTION AND THE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION TAX TO BE SEVERED."

MRS CHAN SAID STARTING IN THE 1988-89 FINANCIAL YEAR, ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WERE INTRODUCED FOR THE ASSOCIATION TO SUBMIT ITS BUDGET AND PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR APPROVAL BY GOVERNMENT AND FOR A GRANT TO BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF THE APPROVED BUDGET.

"EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE ASSOCIATION ALSO AGREED THAT THE NEW SUBVENTION ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE GIVEN LEGISLATIVE EFFECT BY AMENDING THE ORDINANCE," SHE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

BILL TO EXTEND LICENTIATE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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A BILL SEEKING TO EXTEND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG TO INCLUDE TWO REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, EXPLAINED THAT THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 20C OF THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE TO OVERSEE MATTERS RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION, TRAINING AND LICENSING OF UNREGISTRABLE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

THE COMMITTEE AT PRESENT COMPRISED EIGHT REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, TWO OF WHOM WERE APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

"WHEN THE LICENTIATE SCHEME FIRST CAME INTO OPERATION IN 1977, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WAS THE ONLY UNIVERSITY IN HONG KONG WITH A FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

"NOW THAT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG HAS ESTABLISHED A FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND IS BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE TRAINING OF EXTERNS UNDER THE LICENTIATE SCHEME, IT IS PROPOSED TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG ON THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE," HE SAID.

THE PROPOSAL HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG, MR CHAU ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES FOR DISPLACED TENANTS

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THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE RATE OF EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO SHOP TENANTS AFFECTED BY THE REDEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MICHAEL CHENG.

MR LIAO SAID THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE WAS LAST REVISED IN JANUARY 1986 AND A GENERAL ATTITUDE SURVEY CONDUCTED LAST YEAR INDICATED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE RESPONDENTS FOUND THE PREVAILING RATES ACCEPTABLE.

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"IT IS INTENDED THAT THE PROPOSED REVISION WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES COMMITTEE NEXT MONTH," HE SAID.

AS FOR DOMESTIC TENANTS, MR LIAO SAID THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE COMPRISED TWO COMPONENTS -- A DOMESTIC REMOVAL ALLOWANCE AND A SPECIAL ALLOWANCE.

"THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCE IS INTENDED TO BE A GESTURE OF GOODWILL, COVERING IN PART SUCH COSTS AS THE REMOVAL AND RE-INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONE AND SMALL HOME APPLIANCES," HE SAID.

"THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S INTERNAL REVIEWS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT SINCE THESE COSTS HAVE NOT CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, THE CURRENT RATES OF THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCE ARE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE."

MR LIAO ADDED THAT THE RATES OF THE DOMESTIC REMOVAL ALLOWANCE HAD BEEN ADJUSTED UPWARDS IN TANDEM WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL REVISION.

"THIS HAS RESULTED IN AN INCREASE IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO THE TENANTS. FOR EXAMPLE, FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR, THE PRESENT AMOUNT IS \$4,360, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 36 PER CENT OVER THAT IN 1986," HE SAID.

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BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT SERVICE PLANNED

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A BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT SERVICE IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED BY THE MIDDLE OF 1990, IN QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, AND SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES, IN THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP.

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GOVT REVIEWING ENERGY POLICY, ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS
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WITH THE INCREASING WORLDWIDE CONCERN OVER THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF FOSSIL FUEL USAGE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, THE GOVERNMENT IS REVIEWING CURRENT POLICY TO DETERMINE WHAT FURTHER MEASURES NEED TO BE TAKEN TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT WHILST AT THE SAME TIME CATERING FOR ESSENTIAL ECONOMIC GROWTH.

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON ANSON CHAN, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES MCGREGOR.

MRS CHAN EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT ENERGY POLICY WAS TO ENSURE THAT THERE WAS AN ADEQUATE AND RELIABLE SUPPLY TO MEET CONSUMER'S DEMANDS AND THAT SUCH SUPPLY WAS PROVIDED EFFICIENTLY AND AT REASONABLE PRICES.

"WITHIN THIS BROAD FRAMEWORK GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES ENERGY CONSERVATION BOTH ON THE PART OF CONSUMERS AND THE SUPPLY COMPANIES BUT DOES NOT NORMALLY INTERVENE UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY SUCH AS DURING THE OIL CRISES IN 1973 AND 1979," SHE SAID.

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ASSURANCE ON IMMIGRATION OF SKILLED PERSONNEL
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, ASSURED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT EVERY APPLICATION BY EMPLOYERS TO BRING IN PROFESSIONALS AND MANAGERS WILL BE SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS.

"THERE IS NO RESTRICTION ON NUMBERS OR SOURCES, BUT PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES MUST BE SUITABLY QUALIFIED AND THEIR EMPLOYERS MUST PAY THE GOING WAGES IN HONG KONG," SIR PIERS SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM.

"IN ADDITION, MEMBERS ARE, OF COURSE, AWARE OF THE SPECIAL SCHEME TO IMPORT ABOUT 3,000 SKILLED WORKERS AT THE TECHNICAL AND CRAFTSMAN LEVEL."

HE SAID HONG KONG MUST CONTINUE TO BE FLEXIBLE IN ALLOWING IMMIGRATION OF SKILLED PERSONNEL TO FILL ANY GAPS ARISING FROM EMIGRATION.

SIR PIERS SAID THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EXPECTED TO LEAVE HONG KONG NEXT YEAR WAS ABOUT 55,000, INCLUDING DEPENDANTS.

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IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT LESS THAN A QUARTER OF THE TOTAL WOULD BE PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL STAFF, HE ADDED.

"FOR THE LONG TERM, THE BEST WAY TO MAKE GOOD ANY SHORTFALLS IS TO TRAIN OUR OWN YOUNG PEOPLE SO THAT THEY HAVE THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS REQUIRED TO ENABLE HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO PROSPER," HE SAID.

"IN THIS COUNCIL LAST WEEK, THE GOVERNOR DESCRIBED THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLANS IN THIS CONNECTION IN SOME DETAIL."

SIR PIERS SAID IN THE MEDIUM TERM THE GOVERNMENT HOPED TO GENERATE AN INCREASE IN THE RETURN FLOW OF FORMER HONG KONG RESIDENTS STARTING IN THE EARLY 1990'S.

"SINCE THE SURGE IN EMIGRATION DID NOT REALLY GET UNDERWAY UNTIL 1988, THE RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DESTINATION COUNTRIES REQUIRE THAT THOSE PEOPLE WILL NOT FOR THE MOST PART BE ELIGIBLE TO RETURN UNTIL 1991 OR EVEN LATER," HE SAID.

"IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THE RETURN OF EMIGRANTS, WE MUST ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE READY ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING JOB OPPORTUNITIES."

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DECISION TO PROSECUTE FORMER CROWN COUNSEL

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, HAS DECIDED TO PROSECUTE A FORMER SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL FOR ALLEGED OFFENCES OF INCITEMENT TO PROCURE A GIRL UNDER THE AGE OF 21 FOR UNLAWFUL SEXUAL INTERCOURSE.

MR MATHEWS EXPLAINED THE STEPS LEADING TO HIS DECISION IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR MATHEWS SAID ON APRIL 26 THIS YEAR, THE POLICE SUBMITTED TO THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS, MR A.F. DUCKETT, PAPERS CONTAINING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MR E.C. HARRIS, A SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL THEN SERVING IN THE PROSECUTIONS DIVISION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS.

"ON THAT SAME DAY, MR DUCKETT BROUGHT THOSE ALLEGATIONS TO MY ATTENTION. I IMMEDIATELY DIRECTED THAT ADVICE BE SOUGHT FROM AN EMINENT QUEEN'S COUNSEL IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR," HE SAID.

"THIS DIRECTION ACCORDS WITH THE PRACTICE ADOPTED WHEN ALLEGATIONS OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT FALL TO BE CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO ANY PROFESSIONAL OFFICER WITHIN MY CHAMBERS.

"AT THIS POINT, LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE QUEEN'S COUNSEL WAS SENT THE COMPLETE POLICE FILE DELIVERED TO MR DUCKETT ON APRIL 26, 1989.

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"THAT FILE COMPRISED STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES, TRANSCRIPTS OF TAPE RECORDINGS OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS AND OF A CONVERSATION WITH AN UNDERCOVER POLICE AGENT, AND A DETAILED POLICE COVERING REPORT.

"THIS MATERIAL WAS DELIVERED TO THE QUEEN'S COUNSEL WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO ADVISE WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS ANY CRIMINAL OFFENCE WITH WHICH MR HARRIS COULD BE CHARGED."

MR MATHEWS SAID THE QUEEN'S COUNSEL DELIVERED HIS WRITTEN OPINION ON MONDAY, MAY 1.

"HE WAS UNEQUIVOCAL IN HIS ADVICE. THAT ADVICE WAS THAT THERE WAS NO CRIME WITH WHICH MR HARRIS COULD BE CHARGED," MR MATHEWS SAID.

IN THE LIGHT OF THAT ADVICE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID HE DECIDED THAT THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR A PROSECUTION.

REFERRING TO MRS TU'S QUESTION ON WHETHER IN ARRIVING AT THE DECISION THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC AND OF POSSIBLE VICTIMS, MR MATHEWS SAID SINCE HE WAS ADVISED THAT THERE WAS NO CRIME WITH WHICH MR HARRIS COULD BE CHARGED, THESE QUESTIONS DID NOT, IN THE EVENT, ARISE.

"CERTAIN SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE THAT THE POLICE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THIS CASE WERE IMPROPERLY TERMINATED BY ME OR BY MR DUCKETT. THESE SUGGESTIONS ARE UNTRUE," HE SAID.

"THE PAPERS PRESENTED TO MR DUCKETT REVEALED THAT, PRIOR TO THAT DATE, THE POLICE HAD INTENDED TO TAKE CERTAIN STEPS ON APRIL 27.

"BUT BY THE TIME THE PAPERS WERE DELIVERED TO HIM, THE POLICE HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO DISCONTINUE THE OPERATION PLANNED FOR APRIL 27.

"I DID NOT CAUSE THE POLICE ACTION TO BE STOPPED AND, IN ANY EVENT, I SHOULD EMPHASISE THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS OPERATIONAL DECISIONS ARE FOR THE POLICE, NOT FOR ME.

"FOLLOWING MY DECISION NOT TO PROSECUTE, I NEVERTHELESS FORMED THE VIEW THAT, IN THE LIGHT OF THE MATTERS BEFORE ME, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR MR HARRIS TO CONTINUE TO PERFORM HIS DUTIES AS A SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL.

"I CONVEYED MY VIEWS TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AS THE SECRETARY RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVIL SERVICE CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT. HE DECIDED THAT MR HARRIS SHOULD LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT'S SERVICE, AND ADVISED THAT THIS WOULD BEST BE ACHIEVED BY TERMINATING HIS CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT.

"ON MAY 3, 1989, I INFORMED MR HARRIS OF THE DECISION MADE AND HE LEFT CHAMBERS THAT EVENING. HE HAS NOT PERFORMED ANY DUTIES SINCE THEN."

THERE REMAINED THEN THE QUESTION OF HIS POSITION AS A MEMBER OF THE HONG KONG BAR. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID AS A MATTER OF LAW IT WAS OPEN TO HIM AS WELL AS TO THE BAR TO APPLY TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY TO INQUIRE INTO A COMPLAINT AGAINST A BARRISTER.

/IT HAD

IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED THAT HE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THIS COURSE.

"THAT WAS INDEED ONE AVAILABLE AVENUE. ANOTHER WAS FOR ME TO REFER THE MATTER TO THE BAR COMMITTEE. I HAD DECIDED UPON THAT LATTER COURSE," HE SAID.

"AS IT HAPPENED, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BAR SPOKE TO ME SHORTLY AFTER THE EVENTS I HAVE DESCRIBED.

"AT HIS REQUEST I MADE AVAILABLE ALL PAPERS NECESSARY FOR HIS PURPOSE, THAT IS TRANSCRIPTS AND STATEMENTS BUT NOT COMMUNICATIONS PRIVILEGED IN LAW.

"THESE PRIVILEGED DOCUMENTS WERE COUNSEL'S OPINION AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE POLICE AND MY CHAMBERS."

MR MATHEWS SAID MEMBERS WOULD BE AWARE THAT DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS HAD NOW BEEN INSTITUTED.

HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN CRITICISM OF THE WAY IN WHICH MR HARRIS OBTAINED A PRACTISING CERTIFICATE SHORTLY AFTER LEAVING GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHOULD HAVE MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO PREVENT HIM FROM ENTERING PRACTICE.

"THE SHORT ANSWER IS THAT I HAVE NO SUCH POWER IN LAW," HE SAID.

"HE WAS ADMITTED TO THE HONG KONG BAR IN APRIL 1986, LONG BEFORE THESE EVENTS TOOK PLACE.

"ANY OBJECTION TO AN ADMISSION IS TO BE TAKEN AT THE STAGE OF ADMISSION AND NOT LATER UPON THE ISSUE OF THE ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID THERE HAD BEEN FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

"MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION EXPRESSED VIEWS AS TO THE LAW CONTRARY TO THE ADVICE I HAD RECEIVED.

"IN THE LIGHT OF THOSE VIEWS, I THOUGHT IT RIGHT TO RESUBMIT THE SAME PAPERS TO QUEEN'S COUNSEL WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY ADVISED, INVITING HIM TO CONSIDER CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE LAW AND SEEKING HIS FURTHER OPINION.

"THIS I DID ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1989. THAT FURTHER OPINION DIFFERED IN ITS CONCLUSION FROM THE ORIGINAL.

"AS A RESULT AND WITH THE BENEFIT OF THE VIEWS OF MR C.W. REID, WHEN RECENTLY ACTING AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS, I HAVE DECIDED THAT A PROSECUTION SHOULD BE BROUGHT FOR ALLEGED OFFENCES OF INCITEMENT TO PROCURE A GIRL UNDER THE AGE OF 21 FOR UNLAWFUL SEXUAL INTERCOURSE.

/"IT WOULD

"IT WOULD BE QUITE IMPROPER FOR ME TO ENTER UPON A DEBATE NOW ON THE MERITS OF THE CASE OR ON THE ISSUES OF LAW.

"AS HAS OFTEN BEEN STATED IN THIS COUNCIL, QUESTIONS OF GUILT OR INNOCENCE ARE QUESTIONS TO BE DETERMINED IN A COURT OF LAW, WHERE AN ACCUSED HAS THE RIGHT TO PUT HIS SIDE OF THE CASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONTINUED: "I HAVE NOW EXPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH THE STEPS TAKEN BY ME AND IN PARTICULAR, I HAVE ADDRESSED THOSE AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF SPECIFIC CONCERN.

"OUTSIDE COUNSEL WAS CONSULTED AND ALL THE PAPERS WERE SUBMITTED TO HIM.

"THERE WAS NO INTERFERENCE IN THE POLICE INVESTIGATION."

ANY SUGGESTION THAT MR HARRIS WAS NOT PROSECUTED BECAUSE OF THE POSITION HE HELD WAS ENTIRELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION, MR MATHEWS STRESSED.

"THE ORIGINAL DECISION NOT TO PROSECUTE HAS NOT ONLY GIVEN RISE TO MUCH PUBLIC CONCERN. IT ALSO HAD A BEARING ON SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS AND DECISIONS," HE SAID.

"IT IS THEREFORE REGRETTABLE THAT THE DECISION NOT TO PROSECUTE WAS BASED ON LEGAL ADVICE WHICH, IN THE EVENT, HAS PROVED TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH THAT MORE RECENTLY RECEIVED.

"I WISH TO MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT I BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VIEWS OF THE LAW TAKEN AND FOR ALL CONSEQUENT DECISIONS."

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NINE-YEAR REQUIREMENT FOR UNCONDITIONAL STAY BEING REVIEWED

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THE REQUIREMENT FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS TO HAVE BEEN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN NINE YEARS BEFORE THEY CAN APPLY FOR UNCONDITIONAL STAY IN HONG KONG IS BEING REVIEWED.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID LI.

THE REVIEW WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT IN KEEPING WITH THE DEFINITION OF PERMANENT RESIDENT OF THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION UNDER THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE NINE-YEAR TIME LIMIT WAS BEING CONSIDERED FOR REDUCTION TO SEVEN YEARS.

/MR BARNES

MR BARNES SAID THE NINE-YEAR REQUIREMENT WAS INTRODUCED BY THE ADMINISTRATION IN 1983 IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT A NEW PROVISION OF THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT 1981 WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT THAT YEAR.

"PRIOR TO 1983, FOREIGN NATIONALS IN HONG KONG, OR ALIENS IN OUR IMMIGRATION TERMS, COULD NOT QUALIFY UNDER OUR IMMIGRATION POLICY FOR UNCONDITIONAL STAY, REGARDLESS OF HOW LONG THEY HAD BEEN LIVING IN HONG KONG.

"BUT IN THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT 1981, A NEW PROVISION WAS INTRODUCED WHEREBY ALIENS OR STATELESS RESIDENTS IN HONG KONG WERE ALLOWED TO APPLY FOR NATURALISATION AS HONG KONG BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS PROVIDED THAT THEY HAD BEEN FREE FROM CONDITIONS OF STAY IN THE 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO THEIR APPLICATION," HE SAID.

A MODIFICATION WAS THEREFORE MADE TO THE IMMIGRATION POLICY TO ENABLE SUCH PEOPLE TO QUALIFY FOR UNCONDITIONAL STAY AFTER A PERIOD OF RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

MR BARNES EXPLAINED THE PERIOD OF NINE YEARS WAS LAID DOWN HAVING REGARD TO THE NEED, AS WAS NORMALLY THE CASE, TO ASSESS INTENTIONS AND SECURITY RISKS.

"IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WAS DECIDED IN THE EARLY 1970'S THAT CHINESE PERSONS AND BRITISH CITIZENS SHOULD HAVE ORDINARILY RESIDED IN HONG KONG FOR SEVEN YEARS OR MORE BEFORE THEY COULD CLAIM THE RIGHT TO LAND OR UNCONDITIONAL STAY.

"FOREIGN NATIONALS, WHO WERE CONSIDERED IN THE PAST AS HAVING LESS CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH HONG KONG, WERE GIVEN IN 1983 A LONGER OBSERVATION PERIOD OF NINE YEARS," HE SAID.

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FIGURES GIVEN ON TEACHER VACANCIES

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A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF ALL AIDED SCHOOLS AT THE START OF THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR REVEALED 203 VACANCIES IN A TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT OF 31,740 TEACHING POSTS, REPRESENTING A VACANCY RATE OF 0.64 PER CENT, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON Y.K. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID CHEUNG, MR YEUNG SAID SINCE THEN, A FURTHER 87 VACANCIES HAD BEEN FILLED, GIVING A CURRENT VACANCY RATE OF 0.4 PER CENT.

HE SAID THE VACANCY RATE FOR TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, 3.2 PER CENT ON SEPTEMBER 1, OR 104 VACANCIES AGAINST AN APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF 3,240 TEACHING POSTS, HAD REMAINED FAIRLY STABLE OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

/THIS WAS

THIS WAS AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE CORRESPONDING FIGURE FOR LAST YEAR, WHICH WAS JUST OVER FOUR PER CENT, HE ADDED.

"FROM THESE FIGURES IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS IS BY NO MEANS AS CRITICAL A PROBLEM AS THE QUESTION IMPLIES, AND AS RECENT PRESS REPORTS OF UNION CLAIMS HAVE SUGGESTED.

"NEVERTHELESS, A SHORTAGE DOES EXIST, AND NO ONE CAN BE COMPLACENT ABOUT THE NEED BOTH TO RETAIN EXPERIENCED TEACHERS AND TO ATTRACT ABLE PEOPLE INTO THE PROFESSION.

"THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO AT A TIME OF FULL EMPLOYMENT, WHEN OTHER CAREER OPPORTUNITIES ARE INCREASING AND THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE REACHING SCHOOL-LEAVING AGE IS DECLINING," HE SAID.

CONCERNING THE LIKELY FUTURE SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED SCHOOL TEACHERS, MR YEUNG SAID THAT ALTHOUGH APPLICATIONS FOR PLACES IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION HAD BEEN DECLINING OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, THEY STILL GREATLY EXCEEDED THE PLACES AVAILABLE.

HE SAID THAT THIS YEAR THERE WERE MORE THAN FOUR APPLICANTS FOR EVERY FULL-TIME PLACE AND FOR PART-TIME COURSES ABOUT 17 PER CENT OF APPLICATIONS FROM SERVING TEACHERS HAD TO BE TURNED AWAY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ENROLMENT ON POST-GRADUATE TEACHER TRAINING COURSES AT THE TWO UNIVERSITIES HAD THIS YEAR FALLEN SLIGHTLY BELOW THE NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE ADDED.

"THE OVERALL FIGURES I HAVE GIVEN CONCEAL CERTAIN PROBLEM AREAS TO WHICH WE ARE GIVING ATTENTION," MR YEUNG SAID.

"FOR EXAMPLE, SCHOOLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TEND TO EMPLOY A HIGHER PROPORTION OF TEACHERS WITH NON-STANDARD QUALIFICATIONS THAN SCHOOLS IN THE URBAN AREAS.

"THERE MAY BE A NEED TO OFFER MORE CONVENIENTLY LOCATED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, TO HELP SUCH TEACHERS BECOME PROPERLY QUALIFIED.

"ALSO, CERTAIN SUBJECTS ARE SHORT OF QUALIFIED TEACHERS, BUT WE ARE CONSIDERING THE EXPANSION OF TRAINING ACTIVITY WHERE APPROPRIATE."

MR YEUNG ALSO SAID THE EDUCATION COMMISSION INTENDED TO INVESTIGATE THE ROLE OF THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION IN RELATION TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

"I EXPECT THAT COMPREHENSIVE ADVICE ON THE SUBJECT WILL EMERGE IN THE COMMISSION'S FIFTH REPORT, WHICH SHOULD BE PUBLISHED TOWARDS THE END OF NEXT YEAR," HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1989

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LAW AND ORDER BEING MAINTAINED

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THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE DEPLOYMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE DETENTION DUTIES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PEGGY LAM, MR BARNES SAID THE SIZE AND VERSATILITY OF THE POLICE FORCE FORTUNATELY PERMITTED A FLEXIBLE RESPONSE TO COPE WITH VARIOUS TASKS AS AND WHEN THEY AROSE.

"WHEREAS UP TO 700 POLICE OFFICERS MAY BE CALLED UPON TO MAN VBP CAMPS EVERY DAY, THEY REPRESENT NO MORE THAN 2.6 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POLICE STRENGTH, AND THE FORCE'S COMMITMENT TO REGULAR WATCH AND WARD DUTIES REMAINS VERY HIGH," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THAT CRIME RATES GENERALLY WERE NOT INCREASING.

IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, REPORTED CRIME AMOUNTED TO 59,445 CASES, COMPARED WITH 60,464 CASES FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988, HE SAID.

"THIS IS THE LOWEST THREE-QUARTER YEAR FIGURE FOR FIVE YEARS.

"WITHIN THIS OVERALL TOTAL FOR 1989, VIOLENT CRIME HAS INCREASED FROM 11,939 TO 12,778 CASES.

"THIS IS REGRETTABLE AND IS NOT BEING TAKEN LIGHTLY, BUT IS NOT A CAUSE FOR ALARM," HE SAID.

SOME OF THE INCREASE COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO VIETNAMESE CASES IN CAMPS, HE ADDED.

MR BARNES ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE DEPLOYMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS FOR VBP DUTIES HAD BEEN MADE POSSIBLE ONLY THROUGH CAREFUL ADJUSTMENTS TO GENERAL UNIFORM BRANCH STRENGTH AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

HE SAID THAT THE SITUATION WAS CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

"EVERY EFFORT HAS TO BE MADE, AND IS BEING MADE, TO ENSURE THAT THE FORCE IS KEPT UP TO STRENGTH," HE STRESSED.

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HK COMPLIES WITH COCOM EXPORT RESTRICTIONS

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AT PRESENT, HONG KONG IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE EXPORT RESTRICTIONS APPLIED BY THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EXPORT CONTROL (COCOM) AND THEREFORE ENJOYS ACCESS TO HIGH-TECHNOLOGY IMPORTS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IT IS OUR OBJECTIVE TO ENSURE THAT THE PRESENT DEGREE OF ACCESS WILL CONTINUE BEYOND 1997 AND WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS THAT OBJECTIVE," HE SAID.

HE WAS GIVING A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES MCGREGOR CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS APPLIED BY THE COCOM IN RESPECT OF THE EXPORT OF HIGH-TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS.

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LAW PROVIDES FOR QUICK ACTION ON DANGEROUS SIGNS

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) ORDINANCE 1989 EMPOWERS THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IMMEDIATELY TO RENDER SAFE OR REMOVE DANGEROUS ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS IN SITUATIONS WHERE THERE IS A REAL THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY, AND TO DISPOSE OF ANY MATERIALS SO REMOVED.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, THE AUTHORITY MIGHT RECOVER ANY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE REMOVAL OF SUCH SIGNS AND IN THE DISPOSAL OF THE MATERIALS, MR BARNES SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

"AT THE TIME OF ENACTMENT IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT A FULL SYSTEM OF CONTROL BY LICENSING WOULD BE STAFF INTENSIVE, AND THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO CONCENTRATE RESOURCES ON RISK RATHER THAN EMBARK ON A MORE AMBITIOUS AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH," HE SAID.

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DEVELOPMENT BOARD WILL ENHANCE PORT PLANNING

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THE INTRODUCTION OF A PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD WILL IN FUTURE ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PORT PLANNING, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON ANSON CHAN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID CHEUNG ON THE MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO ENHANCE EFFICIENCY IN PORT MANAGEMENT IN VIEW OF THE RAPID INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF CARGOES MOVING THROUGH HONG KONG, MRS CHAN SAID THE BOARD, ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS LAST WEEK, WOULD PROVIDE MORE CO-ORDINATED INITIATIVES AND RESPONSES WHICH REFLECTED THE VIEWS OF ALL USERS AND SUPPLIERS OF PORT SERVICES.

"THE NEW PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD WILL, I BELIEVE, ALLOW US TO TAKE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF THE STRATEGIC NEW PORT DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAT LIE AHEAD," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN EXPLAINED THAT THE DEMAND FOR PORT SERVICES HAD INCREASED THREEFOLD OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS.

"WE HAVE MET THAT DEMAND BY THE PROVISION OF THE NECESSARY RESOURCES AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME WITHOUT OVER-PROVISION," SHE SAID.

THIS ENVIABLE ACHIEVEMENT HAD BEEN DUE TO THE COMBINATION OF TWO FACTORS -- PRUDENT PLANNING, AND SOUND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF PORT FACILITIES.

CONCERNING THE LATTER, MRS CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY HAD BEEN TO PROVIDE THE ENVIRONMENT WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PARTICIPATE AND INVEST IN THE PORT.

"THIS POLICY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND WILL CONTINUE," SHE SAID.

"THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, IN ITS OVERALL PORT ADMINISTRATION ROLE, WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR AND REVIEW OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND IS KEPT WELL INFORMED OF THE VIEWS OF BOTH USERS AND SUPPLIERS OF PORT SERVICES THROUGH ITS NETWORK OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

"THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, IN PARTNERSHIP, WILL ENSURE THAT INVESTMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY, MODERN EQUIPMENT AND NEW WORKING METHODS WILL CONTINUE TO ACHIEVE IMPROVEMENTS IN OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY."

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT SAFETY WAS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE IN MAINTAINING THE EFFICIENCY AND REPUTATION OF THE PORT.

"THE NEW VESSEL TRAFFIC SYSTEM FACILITY WHICH IS NOW ENTERING SERVICE IS PROVIDING HONG KONG WITH THE MOST UP TO DATE MEANS TO IMPROVE OUR ALREADY ENVIABLE PORT SAFETY RECORD, IN THE FACE OF EVER-INCREASING PORT TRAFFIC," SHE SAID.

HOUSING AUTHORITY SETS OUT PLANS FOR MILLION FLATS

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DETAILS OF HOW THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY IS TACKLING THE JOB OF ENSURING THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL ALL BE PROVIDED WITH HOMES BY THE TURN OF THE CENTURY ARE SET OUT IN THE AUTHORITY'S "NEW LOOK" ANNUAL REPORT, TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES POINTED OUT THAT CLOSE TO ONE MILLION FLATS WILL BE NEEDED TO MEET THE OBJECTIVE SET OUT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY.

THE AUTHORITY, WHICH PRODUCED 50,000 FLATS FOR THE PUBLIC IN THE 1988-89 YEAR COVERED BY THE REPORT, INTENDS TO CONTINUE AT THIS PACE OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE YEARS AHEAD. IT WILL THUS BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BUILDING 60 PER CENT OF THE FLATS NEEDED, WITH THE OTHER 40 PER CENT BEING MET BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

SOME 2.8 MILLION PEOPLE - ABOUT HALF OF THE POPULATION - NOW LIVE IN PUBLIC HOUSING.

NOTING ALSO "THE POSSIBLE SETBACKS" THAT COULD RESULT FROM THE SHORTAGE OF LABOUR AND PROBLEMS IN RECRUITING SUFFICIENT PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL MANPOWER, SIR DAVID SAID MORE EMPHASIS WAS BEING PLACED ON MECHANISATION AND STANDARDISATION OF COMPONENT PARTS TO OFFSET THESE PROBLEMS.

THE REPORT ALSO SHOWS HOW THE AUTHORITY, WITH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT PROVIDING THE CONSTRUCTION, ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, IS STRIVING TO MEET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE BY CONSTANTLY BUILDING HOMES TO HIGHER STANDARDS, ONE SUCH EXAMPLE BEING THE FORTHCOMING NEW HARMONY RANGE OF BLOCKS.

"IN HUMAN TERMS," SIR DAVID SAID, "THE AUTHORITY HAS BEEN TAKING STEPS -- FOR SOME YEARS NOW -- TO MAKE LIVING MORE COMFORTABLE FOR ITS TENANTS."

THE BILINGUAL REPORT, WHICH IS ON SALE FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT \$20 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, CONTAINS A NUMBER OF NEW FEATURES, INCLUDING AN ENLARGED PICTORIAL SECTION ON "CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS", AND A HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE YEARS, BEGINNING FROM 1953.

THE ATTRACTIVELY DESIGNED 214-PAGE REPORT COVERS ALL ASPECTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING WORK AND INCLUDES DETAILED STATISTICS WHICH ADD TO ITS POPULARITY WITH BOTH THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONALS.

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FUND PAYS OUT \$8.4 MILLION IN EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS
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THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND HAS APPROVED A TOTAL OF 3,091 APPLICATIONS IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1989 RESULTING IN EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS OF \$8.4 MILLION, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND BOARD, THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE 1988-89 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHUNG SAID THAT DURING THE YEAR THE FUND HAD RECEIVED 3,351 APPLICATIONS WITH CLAIMS AMOUNTING TO \$17.9 MILLION FROM EMPLOYEES IN 239 INSOLVENCY CASES.

HE SAID THAT IN MOST OF THE APPROVED CASES, THE APPLICANTS WERE ABLE TO RECEIVE ARREARS OF WAGES AND WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE IN FULL AND IN A MUCH SHORTER TIME SPAN THAN WAS POSSIBLE UNDER THE EXISTING LIQUIDATION AND BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS.

THE FUND HAD BEEN ABLE TO ACCUMULATE \$159.7 MILLION DUE MAINLY TO THE INCREASE IN THE INCOME FROM THE LEVY ON BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES AND A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF CLAIMS IN A BOOMING ECONOMY IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, MR CHUNG ADDED.

"DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW, THE BOARD MET FOUR TIMES TO EXAMINE, AMONG OTHERS, THE CHARGING OF A SUPERVISION FEE BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE INVESTMENT OF MONIES NOT IMMEDIATELY REQUIRED AND AS APPROVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, AND A PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THE FUND TO COVER SEVERANCE PAYMENTS," HE SAID.

MR CHUNG SAID THAT BOARD MEMBERS WERE VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE FUND SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OR COMPENSATORY FUND FOR WHICH FULL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS MUST BE RECOVERED THROUGH THE CHARGING OF A SUPERVISION FEE, AND HAD THEREFORE URGED THE ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW THIS POLICY.

IN THE INVESTMENT OF MONIES NOT IMMEDIATELY REQUIRED, HE SAID THAT BOARD MEMBERS HAD TAKEN A CAUTIOUS APPROACH IN VIEW OF THE STOCK MARKET CRASH IN OCTOBER 1987 AND THE RECENT CONFIDENCE CRISIS IN HONG KONG.

MR CHUNG ALSO NOTED THAT THE BOARD HAD ENDORSED THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THE FUND TO COVER SEVERANCE PAYMENT UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$4,000 PER APPLICANT, PENDING A REVIEW OF THE EXTENSION IN A YEAR'S TIME.

HE SAID THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE FUND HAD BEEN IN OPERATION FOR ONLY A FEW YEARS, AND HENCE ANY ESTIMATE OF ITS FUTURE FINANCIAL SITUATION ON THE BASIS OF OPERATING RESULTS MUST BE TREATED WITH CAUTION, AND THAT A POSSIBLE DOWNTURN OF THE ECONOMY WOULD LEAD TO A GREATER NUMBER OF INSOLVENCIES AND HENCE MORE PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1989

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THREE BILLS PASSED

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THREE BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1989; THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1989 AND THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989.

THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL, CONCERNING RULES GOVERNING VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE DETENTION CENTRES, COMPLETED ITS PASSAGE THROUGH THE COUNCIL IN ONE SITTING.

IN ADDITION, THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY WERE THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989; THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989; AND THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989. DEBATES ON THE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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IDEA ON PASSPORTS WORTH PURSUING: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID THE IDEA OF ALLOWING HONG KONG PEOPLE TO OBTAIN FOREIGN PASSPORTS WITHOUT REQUIRING THEM TO LEAVE IS WORTH PUTTING ACROSS IN WASHINGTON.

SIR DAVID DESCRIBED THE IDEA AS A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS WHEN SPEAKING TO REPORTERS IN WASHINGTON ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 17).

"WHETHER OR NOT IT CAN BE DONE AND HOW IT CAN BE DONE IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT HERE ON THE HILL.

"IT WOULD REQUIRE A DIFFERENT SORT OF APPROACH. IT DOESN'T FIT IN WITH THE NORMAL PATTERN OF IMMIGRATION," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT HIS CONCERN WAS TO EXPLAIN THE NEED AS HE SAW IT OF HONG KONG AND HOPED THAT SENATORS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WOULD FIND WAYS OF MEETING THOSE CONCERNS AND FITTING IN WITH THE LEGISLATIVE TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES.

ASKED HOW MUCH SUPPORT THERE WAS FOR THE IDEA, SIR DAVID SAID: "I THINK IT'S AN IDEA WHICH IS JUST BEGINNING TO BE LOOKED AT. I WOULDN'T PUT IT STRONGER THAN THAT. IT'S A NEW IDEA AND IT ALWAYS TAKES A BIT OF TIME FOR ANY NEW IDEA TO TAKE ROOT."

THE GOVERNOR YESTERDAY HAD ANOTHER BUSY ROUND OF VISITS IN WASHINGTON, DC, MEETING SENATORS AND LEADERS OF CONGRESS ON CAPITOL HILL.

HE MET MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON UNITED STATES-CHINA RELATIONS INCLUDING MR ROBERT STRAUSS, FORMER U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE. HE LATER MET SENATOR ALAN SIMPSON, THE SENATE MINORITY WHIP AND ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN LEADER.

IN THE AFTERNOON, HE MET A KEY STAFF MEMBER OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND INTERNATIONAL LAW.

SIR DAVID ALSO MET SENATOR LLOYD BENTSEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE; SENATOR CHARLES ROBB, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE; AND REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN SOLARZ AND MEMBERS OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE.

THE GOVERNOR'S LAST MEETING OF THE DAY WAS WITH MR DAN ROSTENKOWSKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

IN THE EVENING, THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON ATTENDED A DINNER GIVEN IN THEIR HONOUR BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, SIR ANTHONY ACLAND.

FC APPROVES \$16.26 M FOR CREATION OF 25 CONSULTANT POSTS

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED A FUNDING OF \$16.26 MILLION FOR THE CREATION OF 25 ADDITIONAL POSTS OF CONSULTANT AT QUEEN ELIZABETH, PRINCESS MARGARET AND QUEEN MARY HOSPITALS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID THE ADDITIONAL POSTS ARE NEEDED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE STAFF AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO DEAL WITH INCREASED DEMAND FOR SERVICES, TO ENHANCE THE STANDARD OF PATIENT CARE AND TO IMPROVE THE SUPERVISION OF THE UNITS AT THE THREE HOSPITALS.

"DUE TO THE INCREASE IN WORKLOAD, THE COMPLEXITY OF MODERN MEDICINE AND THE ADVANCE OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY, THE CONSULTANTS OF THE UNITS ARE UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE DEMAND.

"THEREFORE, IT IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO CREATE 25 ADDITIONAL POSTS OF CONSULTANT FOR UNITS IN QUEEN ELIZABETH, PRINCESS MARGARET AND QUEEN MARY HOSPITALS WHICH NEED STRENGTHENING TO COPE WITH THE INCREASED WORKLOAD, TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF SERVICE AND TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE TRAINING OF JUNIOR DOCTORS," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

OF THE 25 ADDITIONAL CONSULTANTS, 13 WILL BE POSTED TO QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, 10 TO PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL AND TWO TO QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL.

"IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE 25 ADDITIONAL CONSULTANT POSTS WILL BE FILLED IN DECEMBER," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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DSW GIVES ASSURANCE CONCERNING OAA APPLICATIONS

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ASSURED SENIOR RESIDENTS THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO AVOID ANY UNDUE DELAY IN PROCESSING OLD AGE ALLOWANCE (OAA) APPLICATIONS.

SHE GAVE THE ASSURANCE DURING A VISIT TO A SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY OPERATED BY THE ASIA WOMEN'S LEAGUE IN HENRY G. LEONG YAUMATEI COMMUNITY CENTRE.

MRS WONG TOLD THE ELDERLY THERE THAT IT WAS THE DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION TO COMPLETE PROCESSING NEW OAA APPLICATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

SHE ADDED THAT THE ELDERLY WOULD HAVE THEIR PAYMENTS BACKDATED TO THE DATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALLOWANCES ON APPLICATION.

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SEMINAR ON HK'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

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FOUR PUBLIC FIGURES WILL EXAMINE THE COURSE OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AT A SEMINAR TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THEY ARE OMELCO MEMBERS MR ANDREW WONG AND DR DANIEL TSE, ENGINEERING CONSULTANT DR RAYMOND HO, AND DR JOSEPH CHENG OF THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE.

THEY WILL SPEAK AT THE SEMINAR, ENTITLED "HONG KONG NEEDS YOU", ORGANISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS DISTRICT 303 AND SPONSORED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEMINAR, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 6.30 PM ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB IN HAPPY VALLEY.

MR LAN SAID IT WAS VERY MEANINGFUL THAT A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT AND A PRIVATE ORGANISATION SHOULD JOINTLY ORGANISE A SEMINAR TO DISCUSS WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE TO ENSURE HONG KONG'S CONTINUANCE AS A PROSPEROUS, STABLE AND DYNAMIC SOCIETY.

HE HOPED THE DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS PARTICIPATING IN THE SEMINAR COULD COME TO A CONSENSUS ON HOW THE TERRITORY'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY COULD BE MAINTAINED.

"THIS WILL CERTAINLY BE OF GREAT VALUE TOWARDS STIMULATING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT SO THAT A GENERAL CONSENSUS AMONG HONG KONG PEOPLE CAN BE REACHED," HE SAID.

MR LAN SAID LIONS CLUBS HAD ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANISATIONS IN THE TERRITORY, AND HAD RENDERED VERY VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

"THERE IS MUCH SCOPE OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE CNTA AND THE CLUBS IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE," HE ADDED.

THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS DISTRICT 303, MR PAUL FAN, SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SEMINAR WAS "TO PROMOTE CIVIC AWARENESS AMONG HONG KONG LIONS AND TO HELP MAINTAIN THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG."

TOMORROW'S PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE FOUR KEYNOTE SPEECHES BY THE GUEST SPEAKERS.

MR ANDREW WONG WILL SPEAK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN HONG KONG, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A SPEECH BY DR RAYMOND HO ON THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS.

DR JOSEPH CHENG WILL PROBE THE QUESTION OF "INTERNATIONALISING" HONG KONG WHILE DR DANIEL TSE WILL SPEAK ON THE SEMINAR'S THEME - "HONG KONG NEEDS YOU".

MORE DEVELOPMENTS IN WAN CHAI NORTH PLANNED

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT MORE DEVELOPMENTS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN WAN CHAI NORTH IN THE COMING YEARS.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE WAN CHAI FESTIVAL AT THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS, MR LAN SAID ACCORDING TO THE FINAL REPORT OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY, THE CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION PROJECT WOULD YIELD ABOUT 160 HECTARES OF LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT ON THE NORTH SHORE OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

IT HAD BEEN PROPOSED THAT ONE-SEVENTH OF THE ADDITIONAL LAND WOULD BE FOR COMMERCIAL USE.

MR LAN NOTED THAT WAN CHAI NORTH WAS DEVELOPING AT A VERY FAST SPEED TO BECOME ANOTHER COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL AREA ON HONG KONG ISLAND, AFTER CENTRAL AND ADMIRALTY.

"THE COMMERCIAL FLOOR AREA IN WAN CHAI NORTH NOW TOTALS 460,000 SQUARE METRES.

"AN ADDITIONAL 200,000 SQUARE METRES WILL BE PROVIDED BY TWO GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN GLOUCESTER ROAD AND HARBOUR ROAD, APART FROM THE MANY NEW OFFICE BUILDINGS NOW UNDER VARIOUS STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR," HE SAID.

MR LAN SAID WAN CHAI, WHILE FAST BECOMING A COMMERCIAL AREA, WOULD CONTINUE TO OFFER AN IDEAL LIVING ENVIRONMENT. HE URGED WAN CHAI RESIDENTS TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM, SAID THE AIM OF ORGANISING THE FESTIVAL WAS TO ENHANCE THE SENSE OF UNITY AND BELONGING AMONG RESIDENTS, AND TO PROMOTE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF, AND PARTICIPATION IN, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL WILL RUN UNTIL NOVEMBER 12. A SERIES OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN LINED UP FOR THE 200,000 RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE OPENING CEREMONY WAS FOLLOWED BY A VARIETY SHOW WITH PERFORMANCES BY POP SINGERS, CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATIONS, AND A TALK ON WAN CHAI'S FUNG-SHUI.

ALSO ATTENDING THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE WAN CHAI FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR RAYMOND CHOW.

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GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER
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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES OF TWO 2,825-SQUARE-METRE SITES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR OPEN STORAGE PURPOSES.

THE ONE ON HONG KONG ISLAND IS NEAR SHING TAI ROAD, CHAI WAN RECLAMATION. IT WILL BE USED FOR OPEN STORAGE (EXCLUDING DANGEROUS GOODS AND CONTAINERS) AND/OR THE STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF SAND, CEMENT AND AGGREGATE.

THE TENANCY IS RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTER AN INITIAL LEASE PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.

THE OTHER SITE, FOR OPEN STORAGE OF TENANT'S GOODS EXCLUDING STORAGE OF CONTAINERS, IS IN AREA 2, TSING YI ISLAND.

THE LEASE IS FOR ONE YEAR AND IS RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF HONG KONG EAST AND KWAI TSING.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS FOR BOTH SITES IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 3 THIS YEAR.

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DISTRICT BOARD BY-ELECTION AT TSING YI
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ELECTORS IN THE CHEUNG CHING ESTATE AND MAYFAIR GARDENS ON TSING YI ISLAND ARE URGED TO VOTE IN THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD BY-ELECTION TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE BY-ELECTION FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD'S TSING YI SOUTH CONSTITUENCY WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG SZE YAP COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION CHAN LAI SO CHUN MEMORIAL SCHOOL, CHEUNG CHING ESTATE.

THE TWO CANDIDATES FOR THE BY-ELECTION ARE MR TSE WAI-MING AND MR CHAN KIU-ON.

POLLING WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 7.30 AM AND 10.30 PM.

/ELECTORS SHOULD

ELECTORS SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND THEIR POLL CARDS. AS THERE IS ONLY ONE VACANCY, ELECTORS SHOULD SIMPLY RECORD THEIR VOTE BY MARKING A CROSS IN THE BOX ALONGSIDE THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOICE.

FOR ENQUIRIES, ELECTORS CAN CONTACT THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION ON TEL. 5-270369 OR 5-270380.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS DRAFT TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

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THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE 1990-91 DRAFT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER MEASURES TO RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT SOME OF THE ROAD JUNCTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.15 PM.

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OMELCO'S POLITICAL MODEL ON NORTH DB AGENDA

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MEMBERS OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE OMELCO CONSENSUS ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR MR ANDREW WONG WILL ADDRESS THE MEETING.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE LAYOUT PLAN FOR A VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT AREA WEST OF WO HOP SHEK TSUEN IN FANLING SOUTH.

/OTHER ITEMS

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE REPORTS FROM THE NORTH DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S NORTH DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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POSTER COMPETITION FOR COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB MEMBERS

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A "PICTURE A PEACEFUL WORLD" POSTER CONTEST.

THE COMPETITION IS BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S CYC SECTION AND THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303.

SELECTED POSTERS WILL BE SENT TO THE SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL PEACE POSTER CONTEST IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, USA.

THE GRAND PRIZE FOR THE WINNER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION WILL BE A ROUND TRIP TO NEW YORK WITH TWO FAMILY MEMBERS FOR A BEHIND-THE-SCENES VISIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WHERE THE WINNER WILL BE PRESENTED WITH A CASH AWARD OF US\$1,500 AND AN ENGRAVED COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE.

THERE WILL BE 23 MERIT AWARDS. EACH RECIPIENT WILL BE GIVEN A CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT AND US\$250 IN CASH.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MRS C.H. KONG, AND THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR OF THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303 HONG KONG AND MACAU, MR PAUL FAN, WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 20) TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE "PICTURE A PEACEFUL WORLD" POSTER CONTEST.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO BEGIN AT 3 PM AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303 AT ROOM 803, DOMINION CENTRE, 43-59 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURE IN NORTH POINT TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO SEEK THE CLOSURE OF AN ILLEGAL STRUCTURE IN NORTH POINT SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS OR TO THE PUBLIC.

THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURE IS LOCATED ON THE ROOF OVER FLAT 3, 26TH FLOOR, BLOCK A, 2-6 FORTRESS HILL ROAD.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON APRIL 10, 1986 REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURE.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON DECEMBER 19 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE STRUCTURE TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IT IS INTENDED THAT DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

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AIR MAIL SERVICES BETWEEN HK AND LEBANON RESUMED

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THE AIR MAIL AND AIR PARCEL SERVICES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND LEBANON, WHICH HAD BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE APRIL 13 THIS YEAR, HAVE NOW BEEN RESUMED FOLLOWING THE RE-OPENING OF THE BEIRUT AIRPORT, THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THESE SERVICES INCLUDE FIRST AND SECOND CLASS AIR MAIL AND AIR PARCELS UP TO FIVE KILOGRAMS.

SURFACE MAIL AND SURFACE PARCEL SERVICES TO LEBANON REMAIN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAYS IN KENNEDY TOWN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 20), THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN KENNEDY TOWN WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS ROUND-THE-CLOCK FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS TO FACILITATE TRAM TRACK RENEWAL WORKS:

- * THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF KENNEDY TOWN PRAYA BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 49 AND 51; AND

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- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF SANDS STREET FROM A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CATCHICK STREET TO A POINT ABOUT FIVE METRES TO THE SOUTH.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN WESTERN, TIN WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 20), THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF KA ON STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST AND DES VOEUX ROAD WEST IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE MADE AN URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK.

THIS MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

ALSO FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY, THE EXISTING 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY ON THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TIN WAN STREET IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT BETWEEN TIN WAN CLOSE AND SHEK PAI WAN ROAD WILL BE LIFTED.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR KING'S ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 20), THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS ROUND-THE-CLOCK DURING THE PERIODS SPECIFIED BELOW BECAUSE OF KING'S ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS:

FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS

- * KING'S ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN YAU MAN STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 140 METRES EAST OF GREIG ROAD; AND
- * GREIG ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH KING'S ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 35 METRES TO THE SOUTH.

/FOR ABOUT

FOR ABOUT 10 MONTHS

- * KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TIN CHIU STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES TO THE WEST; AND
- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TIN CHIU STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH KING'S ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES TO THE NORTH.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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PLB BAN ZONE IN SHAM SHUI PO
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 20), THE SECTION OF FAT TSEUNG STREET BETWEEN LAI CHI KOK ROAD AND TUNG CHAU STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE DESIGNATED A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS BAN ZONE 24 HOURS DAILY.

ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE BAN ZONE.

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN SHAM SHUI PO
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 20), THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CAMP STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH UN CHAU STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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NT TAXI URBAN CLEARWAYS IN TSUEN WAN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 20), THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS WILL BE DESIGNATED 24-HOUR NEW TERRITORIES TAXI URBAN CLEARWAYS:

- * THE SECTION OF MIU KONG STREET BETWEEN WAI TSUEN ROAD AND SHING MUN ROAD;
- * THE SECTION OF SHING MUN ROAD BETWEEN MIU KONG STREET AND SAI LAU KOK ROAD; AND
- * THE SECTION OF SAI LAU KOK ROAD BETWEEN SHING MUN ROAD AND WAI TSUEN ROAD.

WITHIN THESE RESTRICTED AREAS, ALL NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS.

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