



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WHITE PAPER ON PRIMARY EDUCATION PUBLISHED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY PUBLISHED A PACKAGE OF MEASURES IN A WHITE PAPER ON PRIMARY EDUCATION AND PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES TO LOOK AFTER THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING CHILD CARE CENTRES, KINDERGARTENS AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

THE WHITE PAPER WAS TABLED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON ERIC HO, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

THE MEASURES HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, PARENTS, EDUCATIONAL AND WELFARE BODIES AND UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS ON THE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE GREEN PAPER PUBLISHED LAST YEAR.

IN THE LIGHT OF THESE COMMENTS, SOME OF THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MODIFIED AND NEW IMPROVEMENTS INTRODUCED.

WHILE THEY REPRESENT A CONSIDERABLE STEP FORWARD IN TERMS OF STANDARDS, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO KEEP THEM UNDER REGULAR REVIEW AND TO MAKE FURTHER MODIFICATIONS AS AND WHEN RESOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE.

A NUMBER OF THESE MEASURES WILL REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS, PARTICULARLY TO THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS AND THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS. THE IMPLEMENTATION DATES SET OUT WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE VOTING OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FROM TIME TO TIME.

COPIES OF THE WHITE PAPER WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND NT DISTRICT OFFICES.

THE MORE IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES COMPARED TO THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSALS ARE:

- * A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN KINDERGARTEN AND CHILD CARE CENTRE SERVICES=
- * AN IMPROVED FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR CHILDREN REQUIRING PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES=
- * AN IMPROVED STAFFING FORMULA FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS=
- * MORE PROVISION OF BASIC EQUIPMENT AND CONSUMABLE MATERIALS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS=
- * A MORE FLEXIBLE SCHEME FOR CONTROL OF ENTRY TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS= AND
- * IMPROVEMENTS IN THE STANDARD OF RURAL EDUCATION.

/DISTINCTION BETWEEN

DISTINCTION BETWEEN KINDERGARTEN AND CHILD CARE CENTRE SERVICES

THE DISTINCTION PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER, BASED ON HOURS OF OPERATION, HAS BEEN REVISED. PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES WILL BE DIVIDED AT THE AGE CORRESPONDING TO TWO YEARS BEFORE ENTRY TO PRIMARY SCHOOL. CHILDREN BELOW THAT AGE WILL ATTEND AN INSTITUTION REGISTERED UNDER THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE AND THOSE ABOVE THAT AGE WILL ATTEND KINDERGARTENS REGISTERED UNDER A SUITABLY AMENDED EDUCATION ORDINANCE. THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE PHASED IN OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 1982. THE PRIMARY SCHOOL COURSE WILL REMAIN AT SIX YEARS WITH THE NORMAL AGE OF ENTRY AT SIX.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A REDUCTION IN CLASS SIZE AS WAS PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER, FOR KINDERGARTENS (TO 30) AND FOR PUBLIC SECTOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS (TO 40, WHILE ALLOWING 35 FOR SCHOOLS ADOPTING THE 'ACTIVITY APPROACH').

THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARDS OF PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES ARE REAFFIRMED. THESE INCLUDE INTENSIVE PART-TIME IN-SERVICE COURSES AND, IN THE LONGER TERM, PRE-SERVICE INITIAL TRAINING FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS. KINDERGARTENS WILL BE REQUIRED TO EMPLOY A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF TRAINED TEACHERS IN STAGES STARTING FROM SEPTEMBER 1984. A NEW TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR BOTH KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS AND CHILD CARE CENTRE STAFF IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE SET UP BY SEPTEMBER 1984.

IMPROVED FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES

IN RESPONSE TO COMMENTS THAT THE SCALE OF FEE ASSISTANCE TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER WAS TOO LOW, THE SCALE HAS BEEN IMPROVED. THE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE WILL NOW BE REDUCED BY ONLY \$15 (INSTEAD OF \$20) FOR EVERY \$100 EARNED BY THE FAMILY ABOVE THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE LEVEL, LESS ALLOWABLE DEDUCTIONS FOR RENT. THE MAXIMUM RENT DEDUCTION HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM 20 PER CENT TO 30 PER CENT OF TOTAL FAMILY INCOME.

THE MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE HAS ALSO BEEN INCREASED FROM \$220 TO \$310 PER MONTH FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES AND FROM \$90 TO \$100 FOR KINDERGARTENS. THESE FIGURES WILL BE REVISED FROM TIME TO TIME TO REFLECT APPROVED FEE INCREASES.

FURTHER, TO ALLAY THE FEARS OF EXISTING SUBVENTED CHILD CARE CENTRES THAT THEY MIGHT FACE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE EVENT OF SUDDEN FLUCTUATIONS IN ENROLMENT AND REDUCTION IN FEE INCOME, NON-PROFIT-MAKING CENTRES WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AN ELEMENT OF DIRECT SUBVENTION. THIS WILL BE EQUIVALENT TO 5 PER CENT OF TOTAL INCOME FROM FEES BASED ON THE APPROVED CAPACITY, SUBJECT TO THE FEE LEVEL BEING APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO NON-PROFIT-MAKING RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES, AS WELL AS TO CENTRES CATERING FOR DISABLED CHILDREN WHERE COSTS ARE HIGHER DUE TO THE NEED TO EMPLOY ADDITIONAL STAFF.

TO ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE NON-PROFIT-MAKING PRE-PRIMARY INSTITUTIONS, IT IS INTENDED TO REIMBURSE THEIR RENTS, WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE WITHIN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, PROVIDED THEIR ACCOMMODATION IS OF AN APPROPRIATE STANDARD AND THE RENTS CHARGED ARE CONSIDERED REASONABLE.

IMPROVED STAFFING FORMULA FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

ENCOURAGEMENT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE PRACTICE OF REMEDIAL TEACHING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF REPETITION OF CLASSES BY CHILDREN WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY IN KEEPING UP WITH THEIR STUDIES. THE CHILDREN WILL BE TAKEN OUT OF THEIR CLASSES AND GIVEN INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION IN SMALL GROUPS.

MEASURES TO IMPROVE EDUCATION STANDARDS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE ALSO INTENDED, INCLUDING THE SETTING UP OF CLASS LIBRARIES, BETTER AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS SERVICES, AND FACILITY FOR TEACHERS TO ATTEND IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES PARTLY IN SCHOOL TIME.

AS THESE IMPROVEMENTS WILL INVOLVE AN EXTRA WORKLOAD FOR STAFF, THE TEACHER TO CLASS RATIO WILL BE IMPROVED FROM 1.1:1 TO 1.2:1 (THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSAL WAS FOR 1.15:1). THIS RATIO WILL APPLY TO ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS FROM SEPTEMBER 1982.

THE WHITE PAPER ALSO PROVIDES FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SENIOR TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS. FOR EXAMPLE, A STANDARD 24-CLASSROOM SCHOOL WILL HAVE TWO MORE SUCH TEACHERS. ONE OF THE SENIOR TEACHERS IN EACH PRIMARY SCHOOL OF 12 OR MORE CLASSES WILL SERVE AS DEPUTY TO THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL.

MORE PROVISION OF BASIC EQUIPMENT AND CONSUMABLE MATERIALS

THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESS FORMAL 'ACTIVITY APPROACH' IN TEACHING, PARTICULARLY IN PRIMARY 1 TO 3 CLASSES. ENCOURAGEMENT WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- * AN INITIAL GRANT WILL BE MADE TO EACH CLASS TO BUY CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND A RECURRENT SUBSIDY TO BUY CONSUMABLE MATERIALS=
- * THE SCHOOL WILL BE PROVIDED WITH FUNDS TO BUY EQUIPMENT TO HELP IN PRODUCING TEACHING AIDS=
- * THE SCHOOL WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN A SYSTEMATIC RETRAINING SCHEME FOR TEACHERS= AND
- * TEACHERS TRAINED IN THE ACTIVITY APPROACH WILL NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM CONSIDERATION FOR PROMOTION BECAUSE THEY CONTINUED TO TEACH IN THESE CLASSES (NORMALLY LOWER CLASSES).

MORE RESOURCE MATERIALS AND OTHER AIDS, REGARDLESS OF THE APPROACH ADOPTED IN TEACHING, WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MAKE TEACHING MORE EFFECTIVE. THESE INCLUDE:

- * CLASS LIBRARIES IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS, COMMENCING IN SEPTEMBER 1983, WITH A PILOT PROJECT IN 25 SCHOOLS STARTING IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR-
- * ADDITIONAL AUDIO-VISUAL AID EQUIPMENT-
- * NEW MEDIA PRODUCTION SERVICES CENTRES TO BE SET UP ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING ONE IN KOWLOON, WHICH WILL OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK-
- * LIBRARIES OF VIDEO-CASSETTE TAPES WILL BE SET UP TO ENABLE SCHOOLS TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE EQUIPMENT PROVIDED FOR ETV SERVICES- AND
- * THE VISUAL EDUCATION CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH TRANSPORT FACILITIES TO PROVIDE BETTER BACK-UP SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS.

FURTHERMORE, THE CAPITATION GRANT WILL COVER THE COSTS OF STUDENT VISITS TO PLACES OF EDUCATIONAL INTEREST AND OF STUDENTS TAKING PART IN SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. THIS GRANT WILL BE RE-ASSESSED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CURRENT COST OF TEACHING MATERIALS AND SERVICES AND THE NEEDS OF THE NEW CURRICULUM, AND WILL BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY IN FUTURE.

ON TEACHING STANDARDS, THE WHITE PAPER ALSO ENDORSES THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSAL FOR REGULAR COURSES OF SYSTEMATIC RETRAINING FOR SERVING PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PROPOSES THAT THIS BE IMPLEMENTED IN SEPTEMBER 1982. ONCE THE SCHEME IS IN FULL OPERATION IN 1986, 800 TEACHERS WILL RECEIVE AN EIGHT-WEEK FULL-TIME COURSE EACH YEAR AT THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION.

THERE WILL ALSO BE REFRESHER COURSES FOR TEACHERS BY THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE TO INTRODUCE NEW CURRICULUM IDEAS AND OTHER INNOVATIONS.

MORE FLEXIBLE SCHEME FOR CONTROL OF ENTRY TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

THE WHITE PAPER SETS OUT A MODIFIED SYSTEM OF ALLOCATING PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES WHICH WILL ALLOW FOR MORE DISCRETIONARY ALLOCATION BY SCHOOLS AND YET RETAIN THE DISTRICT-BASED, CENTRALISED ALLOCATION ARRANGEMENT. THE NEW SYSTEM WILL BE INTRODUCED IN 1983 AND REVIEWED AT REGULAR INTERVALS.

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INSTEAD OF LIMITING THE PROPORTION OF DISCRETIONARY PLACES TO 15 PER CENT AS WAS PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER, IT IS NOW INTENDED TO PERMIT SCHOOLS TO OFFER UP TO 30 PER CENT OF THEIR PRIMARY 1 PLACES TO PUPILS FROM WITHIN THE DISTRICT, UP TO 35 PER CENT TO PUPILS FROM EITHER WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT, HAVING SOME CONNECTION WITH THE SCHOOL, WITH THE REMAINING 35 PER CENT ALLOCATED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO PUPILS LIVING IN THE DISTRICT.

IN THIS WAY, SCHOOLS WILL BE ABLE TO ALLOCATE UP TO 65 PER CENT OF THEIR PLACES TO PUPILS HAVING SOME CONNECTION WITH THE SCHOOL, AND 65 PER CENT OF THE PLACES TO PUPILS LIVING IN THE DISTRICT.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE WHITE PAPER REITERATES THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO BAN TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS FOR ENTRY TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS BUT CONCEDES THAT PROPERLY CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS MAY BE PERMITTED IF REQUIRED.

INTERVIEWS WILL NOT INVOLVE SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE THAT HAVE TO BE SPECIFICALLY LEARNED AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE PRESENT TO ENSURE THAT NO TESTS OF ANY SORT ARE GIVEN.

A SYSTEM OF RECORD CARDS WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED TO MONITOR PUPILS' PROGRESS THROUGH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AND FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES, BUT THESE CARDS WILL NOT CONTAIN REFERENCES TO THE PUPILS' ABILITY OR CONDUCT.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE STANDARD OF RURAL EDUCATION

THE WHITE PAPER REAFFIRMS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO IMPROVE THE STANDARDS OF RURAL SCHOOLS SO THAT CHILDREN EDUCATED IN THEM WILL BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY COURSE.

IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE THE BUILDING OF SOME CENTRALLY LOCATED SCHOOLS TO REPLACE SUB-STANDARD VILLAGE SCHOOLS, MORE REGULAR INSPECTION BY THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE AND PRIORITY IN THE PROVISION OF TEACHING RESOURCES. THE PROPOSALS FOR CENTRALLY LOCATED SCHOOLS AROSE FROM DISCUSSION ON THE GREEN PAPER IN THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD.

IN SUMMARISING THE OBJECTS AND AIMS OF THE WHITE PAPER AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES POINTED OUT THAT THEY WERE THE RAISING OF STANDARDS AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY IN PRIMARY EDUCATION AND PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES.

+IT IS, OF COURSE, SELF-EVIDENT THAT INVESTMENT IN THE YOUNG IS VALUABLE NOT ONLY FOR ITS OWN SAKE, BUT ALSO FOR THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG.

+I AM CONVINCED THAT THE MEASURES IN THIS WHITE PAPER PROVIDE FOR THIS,+ HE SAID.

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VALUE OF HONG KONG DOLLAR EXPLAINED

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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AND THE US DOLLAR LARGELY IF NOT ENTIRELY REFLECTS THE UNUSUAL AND CONTINUING STRENGTH OF THE US DOLLAR AGAINST ALL OTHER CURRENCIES, RATHER THAN A WEAKNESS OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON JOHN BREMRIDGE SAID IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS IS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT IN TERMS OF THE CURRENCIES OF HONG KONG'S 15 MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED THIS YEAR.

ON JULY 17, MR BREMRIDGE SAID, THE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEX OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, AT 88.1, WAS ONLY 0.1 PER CENT LOWER THAN AT THE END OF LAST YEAR. THIS (JULY 22) MORNING IT WAS 88.7 PER CENT, OR 0.6 PER CENT HIGHER.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID A PERIOD OF EXTREME CURRENCY FLUCTUATION SUCH AS WE HAVE SEEN IN RECENT YEARS MAKES LIFE VERY DIFFICULT FOR EXPORTERS IN ALL COUNTRIES, WHO NEED TO PRICE THEIR PRODUCTS AND TO KNOW THE COST OF THEIR IMPORTED COMPONENTS, AND HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS ARE NO EXCEPTION.

+WE CAN, HOWEVER, DRAW SOME SUPPORT FROM THE FACT THAT WHILE AS OF JULY 17 THE HONG KONG DOLLAR HAS DEPRECIATED SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR BY 1.5 PER CENT IN TERMS OF THE CURRENCIES OF OUR MAJOR BUYERS OVERSEAS, SO IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF OUR EXPORTS, IT HAS APPRECIATED BY 0.8 PER CENT IN TERMS OF THE CURRENCIES OF OUR MAJOR SUPPLIERS OVERSEAS, SO REDUCING THE COSTS OF OUR IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES.+

THIS HELPFUL TWIST IN INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY RELATIONSHIPS IS A FACTOR IN THE CONTINUING STRENGTH OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS, HE SAID.

+IT ALSO APPLIES TO THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLARS AGAINST THE US DOLLAR, BECAUSE AS THE UNITED STATES IS MORE IMPORTANT AS AN EXPORT MARKET FOR HONG KONG PRODUCTS THAN AS A SOURCE OF OUR IMPORTS (THOUGH THE PRICE OF OUR FUEL IN PARTICULAR IS EXPRESSED IN US DOLLAR), THE FAVOURABLE EFFECT ON OUR EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS OF THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE US DOLLAR SHOULD BE GREATER THAN ITS ADVERSE EFFECT ON IMPORT PRICES.

+THIS IS ONE REASON WHY HONG KONG'S EXPORT PERFORMANCE TO THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN IMPRESSIVE,+ MR BREMRIDGE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THESE CONSIDERATIONS ARE UNFORTUNATELY NOT SIMPLE AND IT IS OFTEN A MATTER OF SEEKING THE LEAST BAD OUTCOME AFTER A DIFFICULT BALANCING OF ARGUMENTS.

/+IN THIS

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+IN THIS RESPECT I AGREE WITH THE DECISION OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS IN INCREASING DEPOSIT RATES. AMONGST OTHER FACTORS, WHILE THE ASSOCIATED INCREASE IN LENDING RATES UNDOUBTEDLY BRINGS AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN TO ALREADY HARD PRESSED INDUSTRIALISTS AND INDEED TO MANY OTHERS WHO DEPEND ON BORROWED MONEY, IT SHOULD INCREASE THE STRENGTH OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AND THUS SERVE TO CUT THE PRICE OF IMPORTS.+

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE BURDEN OF INCREASING PRICES ON THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

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WIDER CONTROLS OF NOISE PLANNED

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A NOISE CONTROL BILL NOW BEING DRAFTED CONTAINS MUCH WIDER PROPOSED CONTROLS FOR AIR-CONDITIONING INSTALLATIONS THAN THOSE NOW IN EFFECT, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON D.W. MCDONALD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON S.L. CHEN.

MR MCDONALD SAID HE HOPED THE NOISE CONTROL BILL WOULD BE INTRODUCED DURING THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+AT PRESENT, THE CONTROL OF NOISE EMISSION FROM AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEMS IS EFFECTED UNDER SECTION 12 (1)(H) OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE WHICH DEFINES A STATUTORY NUISANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT IS EXERCISED AS NECESSARY BY THE ISSUE OF NUISANCE NOTICES UNDER SECTION 127 OF THE ORDINANCE,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITY FOR THIS SECTION WAS THE URBAN COUNCIL IN THE URBAN AREA AND THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

REPLYING TO ANOTHER PART OF THE QUESTION, MR MCDONALD SAID THAT THE STRUCTURAL SAFETY OF NEW BUILDINGS WAS CONTROLLED BY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FOR HIGHER DESIGN LOADING FOR MACHINE ROOMS AND AREAS SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT.

+SIMILARLY, WHERE NEW PLANT TO BE INSTALLED IN EXISTING BUILDINGS NECESSITATES BUILDING OR STRUCTURAL WORK, THE APPROVAL AND CONSENT OF THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS REQUIRED,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

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HIGH PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF FORGED ID CARDS

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PEOPLE IN POSSESSION OF FORGED IDENTITY CARDS NOW RISK GOING TO JAIL FOR SEVEN YEARS AND FINES OF UP TO \$50 000.

THE TOUGH NEW PENALTIES ARE CONTAINED IN THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH WAS PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

APART FROM IDENTITY CARDS, THE NEW PENALTIES APPLY TO OTHER DOCUMENTS ISSUED UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE, INCLUDING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CARDS.

THE NEW LAW RAISES THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF FORGED IDENTITY CARDS OR OTHER DOCUMENTS ISSUED UNDER THE ORDINANCE FROM TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$5 000 TO SEVEN YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A \$50 000 FINE UPON CONVICTION ON INDICTMENT.

THE PENALTY ON SUMMARY CONVICTION IS A FINE OF \$20 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

IN INTRODUCING THE BILL IN COUNCIL EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES, HAD WARNED FORGERS AND THOSE BRINGING IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS THAT THEY WOULD BE PURSUED +RELENTLESSLY.+

HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE AND PRACTICABLE STEPS TO REDUCE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

NOT ONLY WOULD THE SECURITY FORCES AT THE BORDER BE MAINTAINED, HE STRESSED, BUT THOSE ILLEGALS REACHING THE URBAN AREAS WOULD BE SOUGHT OUT AND RETURNED WHILE AIDERS AND ABETTORS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE IDENTIFIED AND PROSECUTED.

UNDER THE NEW LAW, AN ACCUSED PERSON SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE A FORGED IDENTITY CARD OR OTHER DOCUMENT IN HIS POSSESSION IF HE HAS IT IN HIS PERSONAL CUSTODY OR POSSESSION, OR IF HE KNOWINGLY HAS IT IN THE ACTUAL CUSTODY OR POSSESSION OF ANY OTHER PERSON, OR IN ANY OTHER PLACE, WHETHER OCCUPIED BY HIMSELF OR NOT.

IT WILL BE IMMATERIAL WHETHER THE IDENTITY CARD OR OTHER DOCUMENT IS IN SUCH CUSTODY, POSSESSION OR PLACE FOR THE USE OF THE ACCUSED PERSON OR THAT OF ANOTHER PERSON.

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NEW LO WU COMPLEX READY IN THREE YEARS
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WORK ON THE NEW STATION COMPLEX AT LO WU WOULD START IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN MAY 1984, THE SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES DISCLOSED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, MR JONES SAID THE NEW STATION WOULD BE BUILT ON THE SITE OF THE EXISTING STATION AND THAT TEMPORARY FACILITIES WOULD BE NEEDED TO RELEASE THE SITE FOR DEVELOPMENT.

+WORK ON THE TEMPORARY FACILITIES COMMENCES THIS WEEK AND IT HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MINIMISE THE INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC.

+THESE TEMPORARY FACILITIES WILL INCREASE THE PRESENT PASSENGER HANDLING CAPACITY AT LO WU BY, FOR INSTANCE, DOUBLING THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRATION DESKS FROM 18 TO 36,+ MR JONES SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE TEMPORARY STATION SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN MARCH 1982, IT WILL BE LARGELY OPERATIONAL IN TIME FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR TO CATER FOR THE VERY HEAVY PASSENGER DEMANDS.

AS FOR THE NEW PERMANENT STATION, MR JONES SAID IT HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO HANDLE 10 000 PASSENGERS AN HOUR, THAT IS 5 000 PASSENGERS IN EACH DIRECTION.

+ALL PASSENGER FACILITIES, INCLUDING CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS, HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO MEET THIS LEVEL OF DEMAND AND THE CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION HALLS WILL BE AIR-CONDITIONED.

+MODERN BAGGAGE HANDLING FACILITIES WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED AND THE STATION WILL INCLUDE A RESTAURANT, KIOSKS AND TOILET FACILITIES,+ HE SAID.

MR JONES SAID A PARTICULAR FEATURE OF THE NEW STATION WOULD BE THE SEPARATE LEVELS USED FOR ARRIVING AND DEPARTING PASSENGERS SO THAT THE TWO STREAMS WOULD BE PROPERLY SEGREGATED, EACH HAVING WIDE WALKWAYS ACROSS THE SHUM CHUN RIVER.

THE POLICE POST WOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE STATION COMPLEX INTO A NEW BUILDING ON AN ADJACENT SITE.

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GAMBLING BILL PASSED

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THE GAMBLING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WITH A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, THE HON PETER C. WONG SAID THE AIM OF THE NEW MEASURES WAS TO STRENGTHEN THE LAW AGAINST ILLEGAL GAMBLING.

WHILE IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO QUANTIFY THE PRESENT EXTENT OF ILLEGAL GAMBLING, HE SAID THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE POLICE HAD HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN CLAMPING DOWN ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE EXISTING ORDINANCE IN 1977.

FROM OCTOBER 1979 TO SEPTEMBER 1980, HE NOTED, NO LESS THAN 3 688 RAIDS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED ON CASINOS, BOOKMAKERS AND STREET GAMBLERS, RESULTING IN 12 345 ARRESTS AND THE SEIZURE OF OVER \$2 MILLION.

THE POLICE HAD, HOWEVER, ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES IN THE EXECUTION OF THEIR STATUTORY FUNCTION UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION, SAID MR WONG, AND IT WAS HOPED THAT SOME OF THESE WOULD BE OVERCOME BY THE NEW PROVISIONS.

UNDER THE BILL, A PERSON IN POSSESSION OF A BETTING SLIP IS PRESUMED TO BE IN SUCH POSSESSION TO ASSIST ANOTHER PERSON IN BOOKMAKING.

IT ALSO PROVIDES THAT MONEY OR PROPERTY FOUND IN PREMISES IN WHICH ILLEGAL CASINO-TYPE GAMBLING TOOK PLACE IS PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN USED FOR OR IN CONNECTION WITH GAMBLING.

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INFORMATION ON LANGUAGE SENT TO PANEL

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FACTUAL INFORMATION REGARDING LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION IN HONG KONG HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL PANEL WHO WILL BE REVIEWING THE HONG KONG EDUCATION SYSTEM, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON E.P. HO, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN, MR HO SAID EDUCATORS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISHED TO EXPRESS OPINIONS ON THIS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS WERE INVITED TO WRITE TO THE PANEL.

+I WOULD CERTAINLY EXPECT THE VISITOR'S REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED, AND WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THERE WAS NO PUBLIC COMMENT OR DEBATE ON IT, WHETHER IT WAS SPECIFICALLY INVITED OR NOT,+ MR HO SAID.

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LICENSED DTCS ENJOY EXEMPT STATUS

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED A MOTION WHICH AMENDS THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

THIS WILL ENABLE LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES TO BE EXEMPTED FROM VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON P. JACOBS SAID THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE PROVIDES FOR THE CONTROL AND REGULATION OF MONEY LENDERS AND MONEY LENDING TRANSACTION IN ORDER TO AFFORD PROTECTION AND RELIEF AGAINST EXCESSIVE INTEREST RATES AND EXTORTIONATE STIPULATIONS IN RESPECT OF LOANS.

+CERTAIN PERSONS AND LOANS AS LISTED IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE ARE EXEMPTED FROM VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE. BY VIRTUE OF THEIR INCLUSION IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE, DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES REGISTERED UNDER THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE AND THEIR SUBSIDIARIES ENJOY EXEMPT STATUS.+

HOWEVER, HE SAID, WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) ORDINANCE 1981, WHICH CAME INTO OPERATION ON JULY 1, A NEW STATUS OF +LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY+ HAS BEEN CREATED.

+THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REGISTERED AND LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES LIES IN THE TYPE OF DEPOSITS THEY ARE PERMITTED TO TAKE. THERE IS NOT NECESSARILY ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TYPES OF LENDING THEY DO.

+IF THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE IS NOT AMENDED, THERE WILL BE AN ANOMALY WHEREBY A LICENSED (AS DISTINCT FROM A REGISTERED) DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY WILL BE TREATED AS AN UNLICENSED MONEY LENDER.+

THE AMENDMENT TO THE FIRST SCHEDULE WHICH IS PROPOSED, MR JACOBS SAID, SEEKS TO REMOVE THIS ANOMALY.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1981

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CHARGES FOR NEW TELEPHONE INSTRUMENTS APPROVED
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THE PROPOSED CHARGES FOR NEW TELEPHONE INSTRUMENTS WHICH THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY PLANS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO SUBSCRIBERS WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE CHARGES ARE FOR FOUR NEW TYPES OF INSTRUMENTS, NAMELY THE DUALINE 2+6 TELEPHONE SYSTEM, A NEW VERSION OF THE HANDSFREE UNIT, THE ATEA TELEPHONE AND THE AUTODIALLING UNIT.

IN MOVING THE MOTION WHICH ADDS TO PARTS II AND III OF THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE (CAP. 269) THE CHARGES FOR THE NEW SERVICES, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES THE HON P. JACOBS SAID THE RENTAL AND INSTALLATION CHARGES PROPOSED BY THE TELEPHONE COMPANY HAD BEEN EXAMINED BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND WERE CONSIDERED TO BE REASONABLE.

HE SAID THE NEW KEYLINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM ALLOWS FOR THE INTERCONNECTION OF TWO EXCHANGE LINES AND SIX EXTENSIONS. CALLS CAN BE MADE AND RECEIVED FROM ANY EXTENSION OVER EACH EXCHANGE LINE. IT ALSO PROVIDES AN INTERCOM FACILITY, AS WELL AS FACILITIES FOR HOLDING AND TRANSFERRING CALLS.

THE NEW VERSION OF THE HANDSFREE UNIT IS OFFERED IN ADDITION TO THE ONE WHICH HAS BEEN ON OFFER ON YEARLY RENTALS TERMS, MR JACOBS SAID.

THE ATEA TELEPHONE IS A SOPHISTICATED INSTRUMENT WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, HAS SUPPLEMENTARY SERVICE KEYS, WHILE THE AUTODIALLING UNIT CAN STORE UP TO 60 SEPARATE TELEPHONE NUMBERS, ANY ONE OF WHICH IT WILL ITSELF DIAL AT THE PUSH OF A BUTTON.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1981

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TRAMS 'ALREADY WELL LIT AT NIGHT'
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THE IDEA OF TRAMS BEING FITTED WITH REAR AND BRAKING LIGHTS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST BUT REJECTED FOR SEVERAL REASONS, THE SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER WONG. DEALING WITH REAR LIGHTS, MR JONES SAID TRAMS WERE ALREADY WELL LIT AT NIGHT BY THEIR OWN INTERIOR LIGHTING AND THERE WAS NO REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT THE USE OF REAR LIGHTS WOULD MAKE THEM ANY MORE VISIBLE.

ON THE QUESTION OF BRAKING LIGHTS, HE SAID THE MATTER HAD BEEN EXAMINED AS FAR BACK AS 1962 BY THE THEN TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHICH ADVISED AGAINST THEIR USE.

THE DECISION WAS THEN REVIEWED IN 1969 AND AGAIN IN 1975, WHEN QUESTIONS WERE ASKED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND WAS CONFIRMED ON BOTH OCCASIONS.

MR JONES SAID THE REASONS FOR THE EARLIER DECISION REMAINED VALID.

THEY WERE: FIRSTLY, THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE NO BRAKING LIGHTS IN EXISTENCE WHICH COULD BE ADOPTED FOR USE WITH THE POWER SUPPLY AND BRAKING SYSTEMS OF HONG KONG'S PRESENT TRAMS AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND VERY EXPENSIVE TO DESIGN SOMETHING WORKABLE FOR MANUFACTURE HERE- SECONDLY, THE SPEED OF OUR TRAMS WAS NOT HIGH ENOUGH TO MAKE IT NECESSARY TO USE BRAKING LIGHTS- AND THIRDLY, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT ANY ACCIDENTS INVOLVING TRAMS COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF THEY HAD BEEN EQUIPPED WITH BRAKING LIGHTS.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1981

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DEMERIT POINTS BILL DEFERRED

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DEBATE ON THE CONTROVERSIAL ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) BILL WAS FURTHER ADJOURNED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE UNOFFICIALS, THE HON ROGER LOBO PROPOSED THAT THE RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING SHOULD BE ADJOURNED TO ENABLE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO STUDY THE BILL IN DEPTH.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL HAD HAD A MIXED REACTION AMONG UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

+BUT THEY ARE AGREED THAT THE PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE A DEMERIT POINT SYSTEM SHOULD BE EXAMINED BY THEM IN PRINCIPLE, AND IF IT IS TO BE INTRODUCED, TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE LIST OF OFFENCES SHOULD BE AMENDED OR EXTENDED.

+ACCORDINGLY THEY WISH TO STUDY THE BILL IN SOME DEPTH DURING THE VACATION, WITH THE INTENTION THAT THE REMAINING STAGES SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW SESSION,+ MR LOBO SAID.

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ELEVEN BILLS PASSED

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ELEVEN BILLS WERE PASSED, SOME WITH AMENDMENTS, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

THEY ARE: GAMBLING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981, REGISTRATION OF PERSONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981, FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981, FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981, FIXED PENALTY (CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981, MEDICAL CLINICS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 1981, LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981, MAINTENANCE ORDER (RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981, MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981, AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) BILL 1981.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1981

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COMPUTERS AND TAX LAW ENFORCEMENT

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+DATABASE+ HELPS TO ACCOMPLISH EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE TAX LAW AND ANTI-TAX EVASION ACTIVITIES, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, MR ANTHONY AUYEUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST, ON THE SUBJECT COMPUTERISATION AND THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, MR AUYEUNG POINTED OUT THAT +CENTRALISING+ THE COLLECTION OF DATA STORED IN THE COMPUTER, MADE IT QUICKER AND EASIER TO LOCATE AND RETRIEVE TAXPAYERS' IDENTIFICATION DATA AND INFORMATION.

+IN OTHER WORDS, A CENTRAL CROSS-REFERENCING FACILITY IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE,+ HE SAID.

+ALL INTER-LINKED RECORDS WILL BE SIMULTANEOUSLY UPDATED AND COMMUNICATIONS EFFICIENTLY ADDRESSED TO CURRENT LOCATIONS.+

+OUR STAFF ARE GRADUALLY RELIEVED OF THE MOUNTING ROUTINE WORK, SUCH AS THE ISSUING OF TAX RETURNS, TAX DEMAND NOTES AND DEFAULT STATEMENTS, AS WELL AS THE PROCESSING OF RECORDING PAYMENTS AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION, WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE TO BE HANDLED MANUALLY.+

MR AUYEUNG NOTED THAT TODAY THERE ARE OVER 2 900 STAFF IN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COLLECTION FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR WOULD BE ABOUT \$11.5 BILLION.

+THEY CAN NOW CONCENTRATE ON SEEKING TO CARRY OUT THEIR MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY -- THE DETERMINATION OF ASSESSMENTS IN PROPER AMOUNT PERMISSIBLE UNDER THE LAW AND THE EQUITABLE ENFORCEMENT OF THE TAXING STATUTES,+ HE SAID.

HE EMPHASISED THAT ALL COMPUTER APPLICATIONS STILL NEED HUMAN RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THEM.

THE END-COMPUTER-PRODUCT COULD NOT BE COMPLETELY IMMUNE FROM MISTAKES, AND THE EXAMINATION AND ANALYSIS OF TAXPAYERS' DATA WOULD CONTINUE TO REQUIRE THE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT OF TAX OFFICERS.

STRINGENT SECURITY MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE DATABASE RECORDS AND GUARD AGAINST THE IMPROPER DISCLOSURE OF TAXPAYERS' INFORMATION, HE SAID.

WITH THE +ON-LINE+ ENQUIRY FACILITIES PROVIDED IN DECEMBER THIS YEAR AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM TWO YEARS LATER, ALL THE ISOLATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS WILL BE INTEGRATED AND SOME NEW APPLICATIONS WILL BE ADDED TO BUSINESS REGISTRATION AND PROFITS TAX AREAS, HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1981

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POSSIBLE TRUNK ROAD ON LANTAU STUDIED

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY APPOINTED A CONSULTANTS FIRM TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING A TRUNK ROAD TO THE PROPOSED REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THE AGREEMENT WAS FORMALLY SIGNED BY MR C.K. CHOW, ACTING PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT CIVIL ENGINEER, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND MR RONALD HODGES, RESIDENT PARTNER OF MOTT, HAY AND ANDERSON FAR EAST.

MOTT, HAY AND ANDERSON FAR EAST TOGETHER WITH HARRIS AND SUTHERLAND FAR EAST AND L.G. MOUCHEL AND PARTNERS (ASIA) MAKE UP THE ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS GROUP OF HONG KONG WHICH WAS FORMED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PROPOSED LANTAU FIXED CROSSING PROJECT.

MR CHOW SAID THAT THE TRUNK ROAD, WHICH WOULD RUN GENERALLY ALONG THE EXISTING COASTLINE OF NORTH LANTAU, WOULD CONNECT THE PROPOSED LANTAU FIXED CROSSING NEAR NGONG SHUEN AU AT THE NORTH EASTERN TIP OF LANTAU AND THE PROPOSED REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

+THE TOTAL LENGTH OF THE ROAD IS ABOUT 13 KILOMETRES,+ HE SAID.

+INITIALLY IT IS PLANNED FOR A FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY, BUT PROVISION WILL BE MADE FOR IT TO BE WIDENED LATER TO A SIX-LANE HIGHWAY.+

ROAD CONNECTIONS AND INTERCHANGES WITH THE EXISTING AND FUTURE ROAD NETWORKS ON NORTH LANTAU WOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

THE CONSULTANTS WOULD SUBMIT A PRELIMINARY REPORT TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

ONCE THE PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED, DETAILED DESIGN WOULD BEGIN, AND WOULD TAKE ABOUT 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS EXPECTED TO MAKE A DECISION LATE NEXT YEAR ON WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT, THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING AND THE TRUNK ROAD.

+IF THE GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO GO AHEAD WITH THESE PROJECTS, CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRUNK ROAD WILL COMMENCE IN THE MIDDLE OF 1983,+ MR CHOW SAID.

THE PROJECT, ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$500 MILLION AT TODAY'S PRICE, IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1987, THE PROGRAMMED COMPLETION DATE OF THE PROPOSED LANTAU FIXED CROSSING.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1981

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KWAI CHUNG PLAYGROUND OPENED

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A PUBLIC PLAYGROUND IN LAI KING HILL ROAD, KWAI CHUNG, WAS OPENED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, DR JAMES HAYES.

THE PLAYGROUND IS LOCATED ON A 410-SQUARE-METRE SITE ADJACENT TO LAI KING AND CHO YIU PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, WHICH HAVE A COMBINED POPULATION OF ABOUT 40 000.

IT HAS BEEN NAMED AFTER THE HILLTOP COUNTRY CLUB, WHOSE MEMBERS RAISED \$130 000 FOR THE PROJECT.

THE SITE WAS GRANTED BY TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE WHICH ALSO DESIGNED THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, DR HAYES THANKED CLUB MEMBERS FOR THEIR EFFORT IN PROVIDING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT.

HE SAID WHILE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR AVAILABLE SITES TO BUILD MORE PARKS AND SPORTSGROUND FOR RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY EFFORT WAS ALSO NEEDED.

THIS, HE SAID, COULD BE DONE THROUGH DONATIONS OR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF HILLTOP COUNTRY CLUB, MR Y.C. CHEE, AND OTHER CLUB MEMBERS WERE ALSO PRESENT AT TODAY'S CEREMONY.

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FIREWORKS DISPLAY

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THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN INVITED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ORGANISE A FIREWORKS DISPLAY TO PROVIDE ENJOYMENT FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS ON THE EVE OF LUNAR NEW YEAR NEXT YEAR (JANUARY 24, 1982).

THE DISPLAY WILL BE HELD IN HONG KONG HARBOUR, TO ALLOW THE LARGEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO WATCH IT.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1981

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MORE SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS TO BE AUCTIONED

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ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS WILL BE HELD BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ON SATURDAY, JULY 25, AT 10 AM IN THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

A TOTAL OF 35 SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS WILL BE OFFERED FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

CM 2800	CL 1023	BY 1	CL 2818	CL 280
CL 2866	CL 168	CM 3828	AG 3500	CL 183
HK 4200	AA 2828	CK 8288	CL 166	CL 203
CK 8828	BK 3443	AR 818	BS 8888	CL 668
CL 165	578	BD 1771	AN 909	CL 512
CL 669	CL 337	CP 678	CN 500	CL 443
CL 899	CM 399	CK 9960	CM 130	CL 213

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 66TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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