



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1985

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NG DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REFERRED TO HIS STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 5 CONCERNING NG AH-LUNG, WHO HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL ON SEPTEMBER 4 SUFFERING FROM A CUT TO HIS NECK AND MINOR ABRASIONS TO HIS ARM AND BACK.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT NG HAD BEEN TREATED FOR HIS INJURIES. THE WOUND TO HIS NECK HAD HEALED AND SUTURES HAD BEEN REMOVED. MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND NG WAS DECLARED FIT TO BE DISCHARGED.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT NG HAD LEFT THE HOSPITAL AT 5.30 PM TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT NG WAS STILL LEGALLY A VISITOR TO HONG KONG UNTIL HIS 15-DAY VISA EXPIRES. HE HAS INDICATED THAT HE WISHES TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG. IF HE PROCEEDS WITH A FORMAL APPLICATION TO DO SO, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, IT WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE USUAL WAY ACCORDING TO THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, AS ARE ALL SUCH APPLICATIONS WHICH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT RECEIVES.

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TWO FORUMS FOR LEGCO CANDIDATES

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TWO FORUMS WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) NIGHT FOR CANDIDATES STANDING FOR ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES (EAST) AND THE NEW TERRITORIES (SOUTH) ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCIES.

THE FORUM FOR CANDIDATES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES (EAST) CONSTITUENCY WILL BE HELD IN THE MAIN HALL OF THE TAI PO COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 8 PM.

THE FIVE CANDIDATES SEEKING ELECTION ARE MR RAYMOND PANG AND MR LIU CHING-LEUNG FROM NORTH DISTRICT; MR STEPHEN WONG OF TAI PO DISTRICT; AND SHA TIN DISTRICT'S MR ANDREW WONG AND MR WAI HON-LEUNG.

THE FORUM FOR CANDIDATES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES (SOUTH) CONSTITUENCY WILL BE HELD AT 8 PM IN THE KIANGSU CHEKIANG COLLEGE AT 83 HING SHING ROAD, KWAI CHUNG.

THE THREE CANDIDATES IN THIS CONSTITUENCY ARE DR RICHARD LAI OF TSUEN WAN DISTRICT; MR HO TUNG-CHING FROM KWAI CHUNG AND TONG YI DISTRICT; AND MR LAM WAI-KEUNG OF ISLANDS DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE FORUMS.

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TAC MEMBERS VISIT CMB DEPOTS  
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MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WHO HAVE BEEN KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THE PERFORMANCE OF CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY THROUGH MONTHLY REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, TODAY TOOK A PERSONAL LOOK AT THE STATE OF CMB'S THREE DEPOTS.

TAC MEMBERS CALLED AT THE DEPOTS IN WONG CHUK HANG, CHAI WAN AND NORTH POINT, AND WERE SHOWN NEW MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT INSTALLED BY THE BUS COMPANY, INCLUDING AN AUTOMATIC CHASSIS CLEANER AND MECHANICAL FLOOR CLEANERS.

IN THE COMPANY OF TRANSPORT BRANCH AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, THEY HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISORY STAFF OF CMB. THEY ALSO STUDIED THE SET UP OF THE COMPANY'S TRAINING SCHOOL.

THE VISIT TODAY WAS ARRANGED FOR THE TAC MEMBERS TO INSPECT THE MEASURES INTRODUCED BY CMB IN RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUP REPORT ON CMB MAINTENANCE. SO FAR, FIVE PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION HAVE BEEN VETTED BY THE COMMITTEE.

ANOTHER VISIT WILL BE ARRANGED LATER THIS MONTH FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO WERE NOT FREE TO JOIN THE GROUP TODAY.

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HIGH COURT JUDGE APPOINTED  
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THE QUEEN HAS APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDGE MICHAEL WONG AS A JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT.

JUDGE MICHAEL WONG WAS BORN IN CHINA IN 1936. HE WAS EDUCATED IN HONG KONG AND AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL. HE WAS CALLED TO THE MIDDLE TEMPLE IN 1962 AND WAS THEN ENGAGED IN PRIVATE PRACTICE UNTIL 1965.

FROM JANUARY 1966 UNTIL MARCH 1969, HE WAS A CROWN COUNSEL IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AND WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL. HE REMAINED IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT UNTIL MARCH 1973 WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED PRESIDING OFFICER IN THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL. IN OCTOBER 1976, HE WAS APPOINTED ASSISTANT REGISTRAR IN THE SUPREME COURT AND IN SEPTEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR, HE WAS APPOINTED A DISTRICT JUDGE.

HE HAS ACTED ON MANY OCCASIONS AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE HIGH COURT AND IS CURRENTLY SITTING AS A DEPUTY JUDGE IN THAT COURT.

JUDGE MICHAEL WONG'S APPOINTMENT AS A JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT WILL TAKE EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1985.

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DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED

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THE GOVERNOR, AFTER CONSIDERING THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON WONG YUN-FAT ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1984 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCES PASSED ON PANG BING-YEE AND LAM YIP-YING ON JULY 26, 1982 AND DECEMBER 15, 1983 RESPECTIVELY SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO 25 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

WONG WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF SO PING-FAT ON NOVEMBER 25, 1981.

PANG WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF YEUNG KA-PO ON JULY 19, 1981.

LAM WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF LAM KWAI-KAM ON MAY 20, 1983.

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URBAN COUNCIL TO SEEK ADDITIONAL REVENUE

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THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO SEEK ADDITIONAL REVENUE IN 1986/87 IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ITS RESERVES AT A REASONABLE LEVEL, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR H.M.G. FORSGATE, SAID TODAY.

MR FORSGATE WAS SPEAKING AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY WHEN SECONDING THE MOTION BY THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, TO ADOPT THE AUDITED STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AND STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1985.

HE POINTED OUT THAT A +PAPER+ SURPLUS OF \$32 MILLION WAS RECORDED IN THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW BRINGING THE COUNCIL'S RESERVES TO \$321 MILLION. HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL'S YIELD FROM RATES THIS YEAR WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY NINE PER CENT TO \$1 237 MILLION WHILE THE DEFICIT WAS EXPECTED TO AMOUNT TO \$106 MILLION. THIS WOULD REDUCE THE RESERVES TO ABOUT \$215 MILLION OR THE EQUIVALENT OF APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH'S EXPENDITURE.

+BASED ON THE RECENTLY COMPLETED FIVE-YEAR FORECAST, A DEFICIT OF ALMOST \$240 MILLION IS EXPECTED IN 1986/87. THIS INCREASED DEFICIT IS MAINLY DUE TO THE ADDITIONAL COST OF SALARIES ARISING FROM THE 1985 GOVERNMENT SALARY REVISION AND INCREASED EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS.

/+IT WILL .....

+IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO DRAW ON THE RESERVES IN 1986/87 TO COVER THE FORECAST SHORTFALL BETWEEN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

+THE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF THE EXPECTED DEFICITS IN 1985/86 AND 1986/87 WILL COMPLETELY EXHAUST AND EXCEED THE RESERVES BY \$22 MILLION. ADDITIONAL REVENUE WILL THEREFORE BE REQUIRED IN 1986/87 SO AS TO MAINTAIN RESERVES AT A REASONABLE LEVEL,+ HE SAID.

FOR THIS AND OTHER FINANCIAL REASONS, HE ADDED, THE COUNCIL'S WORKING GROUP ON AMENDING THE MEMORANDUM OF ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WAS CONTINUING ITS DIALOGUE WITH THE FINANCE BRANCH IN RESPECT OF THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL FUTURE.

MR FORSGATE FELT THAT THE DEFICITS NOW FACING THE COUNCIL EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REGULAR ANNUAL REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEES ON THE VARIOUS FEES AND CHARGES UNDER THEIR CONTROL.

EVEN THOUGH THESE ARE RECOGNISED AS BEING ONLY SECONDARY SOURCES OF REVENUE, HE SAID, THE COUNCIL COULD NOT AFFORD TO OVERLOOK ANY REVENUE SOURCES, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, IN THE PRESENT FINANCIAL CLIMATE IF IT WAS TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS OF ITS SERVICES.

FURTHERMORE, HE SAID, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS EXPLORING THE INTRODUCTION OF MORE MODERN AND COST EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES TO KEEP PACE WITH CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES AND ACTIVELY PURSUING MANAGEMENT SERVICES STUDIES. AND BASED ON THE DETAILED REPORTS THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN PREPARED, HE EXPECTED SUBSTANTIAL COST SAVINGS AND IMPROVED EFFICIENCY.

IN CONCLUSION, MR FORSGATE STRESSED THAT THE COUNCIL, WHILE EXERCISING ALL REASONABLE ECONOMIES, DID NOT WISH TO REDUCE THE MANIFOLD SERVICES THAT THE 4 MILLION URBAN DWELLERS HAD BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO AND WERE ENTITLED TO CONTINUE RECEIVING.

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POWERS OF URBAN COUNCIL NOT DILUTED

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THE POWERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL REMAIN PRECISELY AS THEY WERE BEFORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AND THEY HAVE IN NO WAY BEEN DILUTED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATION SELECT COMMITTEE, DR KIM CHAM WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MR SAMUEL WONG AT TODAY'S OPEN MEETING OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, WHICH IS THE FIRST TO BE HELD AFTER THE SUMMER RECESS.

+THE CHANGES CONSEQUENTIAL TO THE REORGANISATION OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 1 THIS YEAR WERE ADMINISTRATIVE IN NATURE,+ HE POINTED OUT.

+THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH TOOK OVER POLICY ON ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND FOOD HYGIENE MATTERS FROM HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH AND POLICY ON RECREATION AND CULTURE FROM HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH.

+ON POLICY MATTER THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES STANDS IN THE SAME RELATIONSHIP TO THE URBAN COUNCIL AS DID THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE AND THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS.+

ALTHOUGH CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO THE CIVIL SERVICE GRADES WHICH ARE COMMON TO BOTH THE URBAN SERVICES AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS WERE PASSED TO THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, DR CHAM SAID, THIS HAS NOT RESULTED IN ANY DIMINUTION OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S POWERS.

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CAPITAL WORKS EXPENDITURE ESTIMATED AT \$280 MILLION  
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THE EXPENDITURE ON THE URBAN COUNCIL'S CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT \$280 MILLION AGAINST THE APPROVED PROVISION OF \$330 MILLION.

THIS WAS STATED IN THE QUARTERLY REPORT ON UC CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 1984/85 - 1988/89 TABLED FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY.

THE REPORT STATED THAT THE DECREASE IN EXPENDITURE LEVEL IS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

+ SLIPPAGES IN SOME PROJECTS DUE TO DELAY IN THE PREPARATION OF WORKING DRAWINGS AND TENDER DOCUMENTS, CHANGES IN DESIGN, REVISION OF COST ESTIMATES, SLOW PROGRESS ON SITE, INCLEMENT WEATHER AND OTHER UNFORESEEN SITE PROBLEMS.

+ GENUINE SAVINGS ACHIEVED DUE TO LOWER TENDER PRICES RECEIVED ON CONTRACTS LET IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

CLOSER MONITORING OF THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE HAS ALSO RESULTED IN A REDUCTION FORECAST EXPENDITURE LEVELS FOR SOME PROJECTS WHICH HAVE THEREFORE BEEN REVISED DOWNWARDS TO MORE REALISTIC LEVELS, THE REPORT ADDED.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SAME FACTORS WHICH AFFECTED EXPENDITURE IN THE PAST, THE REPORT FORECAST THAT THE EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS IN 1986/87 WOULD BE AROUND \$300.

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COUNCIL COMPLETES DRAFT REPORT ON HAWKERS

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THE URBAN COUNCIL'S WORKING PARTY TO REVIEW HAWKER AND RELATED POLICIES HAS ALREADY COMPLETED A DRAFT REPORT ON HAWKER AND MARKET POLICIES AFTER MORE THAN A YEAR'S DELIBERATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH INTERESTED GROUPS, THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, SAID AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY.

MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THE REPORT WILL COVER SUBJECTS CONCERNING HAWKER POLICY PHILOSOPHY, HAWKER LICENSING, STREET MANAGEMENT, ENFORCEMENT AND CONTROL, RESITING OF HAWKERS AND MARKET VIABILITY AS WELL AS SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR NEWSPAPER, COOKED FOOD AND WALL STALL HAWKERS.

+IN LINE WITH THE COUNCIL'S ONGOING PROCESS TOWARDS MORE OPEN GOVERNMENT, THE WORKING PARTY WILL SEEK FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY INCLUDING THE DISTRICT BOARDS, RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, INTERESTED GROUPS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BEFORE FINALISING THE REPORT,+ HE SAID.

ON THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THAT IT WILL BE BUILT AT THE CHATHAM ROAD EAST SITE AT A COST OF ABOUT \$150 MILLION DERIVED FROM THE COUNCIL'S OWN FUNDING, AND IS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC BY 1989.

+APART FROM SERVING AS A NON-FORMAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY — WHICH WILL BE PHASE ONE — CAN BE REGARDED AS A CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITY BECAUSE IT WILL REFLECT THE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORY OF HONG KONG. IN ADDITION, THIS MUSEUM WILL HELP RAISE THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL STANDARDS OF HONG KONG.+

HE NOTED THAT A GROUP OF SEVERAL COUNCILLORS AND USD STAFF WILL BE MAKING A STUDY TOUR OF NORTH AMERICA LATER THIS MONTH IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLANNING OF THIS MUSEUM.

THIS GROUP WILL BE JOINED BY A SMALL URBAN COUNCIL DELEGATION WHICH WILL MAKE A WORKING VISIT TO CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME.

/DURING THE .....

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DURING THE VISIT, HE SAID, THIS DELEGATION WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE HONG KONG, LOOK AT THE MUNICIPAL FACILITIES THERE — INCLUDING THE EXPO '86 SITE IN VANCOUVER — AND RENEW CULTURAL AND OTHER LINKS WITH THE CANADIAN PEOPLE, AS WELL AS FORMER HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO HAD EMIGRATED TO CANADA.

TURNING TO THE COUNCIL'S EFFORTS TO GO FULLY BILINGUAL, MR CHEONG-LEEN NOTED THAT ALREADY, THE COUNCIL'S MONTHLY OPEN MEETINGS AS WELL AS ITS SELECT COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE WITH THE PROVISION OF SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SERVICE.

THE NEXT STEP IS TO HAVE ALL COUNCIL MINUTES AND PAPERS TRANSLATED INTO CHINESE, BUT IN VIEW OF THE VERY LARGE VOLUME OF DOCUMENTS INVOLVED, HE SAID, THIS MOVE WILL BE INTRODUCED BY STAGES.

+INITIALLY, ALL COMMITTEE MINUTES WILL BE IN BOTH LANGUAGES, AFTER WHICH ALL COMMITTEE PAPERS WILL BE IN CHINESE AS WELL. ALTHOUGH THIS BILINGUAL PROCESS WILL BE EXPENSIVE, THE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH IT SO THAT BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH WILL HAVE EQUAL STATUS IN THIS COUNCIL AT THE EARLIEST DATE POSSIBLE,+ SAID MR CHEONG-LEEN.

IN AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD OF CUSTOMER SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, MR CHEONG-LEEN NOTED THAT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TRAINING SCHOOL HAS ORGANISED TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN CUSTOMER SERVICE FOR FRONT-LINE STAFF AND THEIR SUPERVISORS SERVING IN CULTURAL SERVICES VENUES.

THE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR FRONT-LINE STAFF COVERS COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS WITH THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE COUNTER AND TELEPHONE SKILLS, WHILE THE COURSE FOR THE SUPERVISORS FOCUSES ON WAYS TO MOTIVATE STAFF MEMBERS TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

THIS TWO-TIER TRAINING PROGRAMME WILL BE EXTENDED TO STAFF SERVING IN DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICES LATER THIS YEAR, HE ADDED.

TURNING TO HIS VISIT TO MACAU YESTERDAY, MR CHEONG-LEEN TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT WITH THE INCREASING FACILITIES IN MACAU FOR CULTURAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES, THERE IS THE LIKELIHOOD FOR MORE SUCH EXCHANGE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE MACAU MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES.

HE ASKED THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO LOOK FURTHER INTO THE POSSIBILITIES AND TO REPORT TO THE RELEVANT URBAN COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEES IN DUE COURSE.

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MARKET DESIGN AND RENTAL POLICY UNDER REVIEW

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A REVIEW ON THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF FUTURE URBAN COUNCIL MARKETS INCLUDING THE TYPES OF HAWKERS PROPOSED TO BE RESITED INTO THESE MARKETS IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE COUNCIL'S WORKING PARTY TO REVIEW HAWKER AND RELATED POLICIES.

AND THE FINDINGS WILL BE INCLUDED IN ITS REPORT TO BE RELEASED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION WHEN COMPLETED.

THIS WAS STATED BY MRS ELSIE ELLIOTT TU, CHAIRPERSON OF THE MARKETS AND STREET TRADERS SELECT COMMITTEE, WHEN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY MR JOSEPH CHAN AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY.

MRS ELLIOTT TU NOTED THAT THE MONTHLY AVERAGE NUMBER OF VACANT STALLS IN URBAN COUNCIL MARKETS BETWEEN JULY LAST YEAR AND JULY THIS YEAR WAS 717, WHICH WAS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 PER CENT OF THE MONTHLY AVERAGE TOTAL OF 7 523 STALLS PROVIDED IN UC MARKETS.

SHE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE CAUSES FOR UNSATISFACTORY OCCUPANCY RATE OF STALLS ARE MANY AND VARIED.

+LOCATION OF THE MARKETS WITHIN THE DISTRICT AND OF THE STALL WITHIN THE MARKET, COMPETITION FROM NEARBY HAWKERS AND FRESH PROVISION SHOPS, DESIGN AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE MARKET, AS WELL AS THE RENT ARE ALL, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CONSIDERED TO BE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS AFFECTING THE VIABILITY OF A MARKET WHICH IN TURN HAS A DIRECT BEARING ON THE OCCUPANCY RATE OF THE STALLS PROVIDED THEREIN.

+IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT, OF ALL THESE FACTORS, MARKET DESIGN AND LOCATION RATHER THAN THE RENT, ARE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IN THIS RESPECT.+

TURNING TO THE COUNCIL'S MARKET STALL RENTAL POLICY, MRS ELLIOTT TU SAID THAT UPON THE EXPIRY OF A STALL TENANCY AT PRESENT, RENTALS ARE INCREASED BY 100 PER CENT UP TO A MAXIMUM OF THE FAIR MARKET RENTAL AS ASSESSED BY THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT.

IF AFTER THE INCREASE THE RENTAL IS STILL LESS THAN HALF OF THE FAIR MARKET RENTAL, IT WOULD BE INCREASED BY ANOTHER 50 PER CENT OF THE OLD RENTAL IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE NEW TENANCY.

/HOWEVER, .....

HOWEVER, SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING A SEPARATE REVIEW ON THIS POLICY.

+THIS STUDY IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED SOON AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE MADE TO THE MARKETS AND STREET TRADERS SELECT COMMITTEE WHICH WILL THEN RECONSIDER ITS MARKET STALL RENTAL POLICY TO ENSURE THAT IT REMAINS EQUITABLE AND REALISTIC,+ MRS ELLIOTT TU SAID.

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### CHAIRMAN HAILS NEW ANNUAL REPORT \* \* \* \*

TWICE IN THE LAST TEN YEARS THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS HELPED THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY TO OVERCOME MAJOR CRISES, STATES THE COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, IN A FOREWORD TO THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1984-85.

HE WRITES: +THE DETERMINATION AND DEDICATION THAT THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS APPLIED TO ITS WORK OVER THE PAST DECADE ENABLE IT TO CLAIM, WITH REASON, THAT IT HAS HELPED TO SEE THE COMMUNITY THROUGH TWO PERIODS OF TRIAL AND DIFFICULTY.

+IN THE LATE SEVENTIES, THE COUNCIL'S CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME MITIGATED THE IMPACT HERE OF THE WORLDWIDE RECESSION. AND IN 1982-84, THE CONFIDENCE AND STEADINESS WITH WHICH THE COUNCIL STUCK TO ITS TASKS WERE CERTAINLY A STABILISING FORCE AMID THE POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES OF THOSE YEARS.+

MR CHEONG-LEEN SAYS THAT THIS LATEST ANNUAL REPORT, ENTITLED +INCOMPARABLE HONG KONG+ AND IN A NEW FULL-COLOUR FORMAT, SHOWS NO SLACKENING OF RESOLVE OR EFFORT -- BUT RATHER THE REVERSE.

+ONE EXAMPLE, A MOST CONCRETE ONE, IS THE CONSTRUCTION WORK IN PROGRESS (AT A CAPITAL COST OF ABOUT \$500 MILLION) ON SEVEN URBAN COUNCIL COMPLEXES -- THOSE MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDINGS INCORPORATING MARKETS, LIBRARIES, GAMES HALLS AND OTHER FACILITIES WHICH ARE BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO DISTRICT COMMUNITIES.

+ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS OUR ON-GOING COMMITMENT TO THE 'GREENING' OF HONG KONG. AS THE REPORT INDICATES, LONG YEARS OF EFFORT IN PLANTING AND LANDSCAPING ARE NOW BEARING VISIBLE FRUIT, ESPECIALLY ON AND AROUND OUR HIGHWAYS.+

THE 1985 URBAN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT WHICH HAS BEEN PRINTED ON A4 SIZE PAPER IN SEPARATE CHINESE AND ENGLISH VERSIONS, WAS TODAY (TUESDAY) TABLED AT THE COUNCIL'S MONTHLY OPEN MEETING.

IN MOVING A MOTION TO ADOPT THE REPORT, MR. CHEONG-LEEN HAILED THE NEW VOLUME AS BEING +RICHER IN ILLUSTRATION, AND ALSO MORE LOGICALLY STRUCTURED FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES.+

REFERRING TO THE TITLE, +INCOMPARABLE HONG KONG+, AND THE SUB-TITLE, +A CITY WITH FAITH IN ITS FUTURE+, HE SAID: +THESE PHRASES SEEM TO ME TO REFLECT TRULY THE PRIDE THAT WE FEEL IN THIS UNIQUE CITY.

+THEY ALSO REMIND US OF ON-GOING TASKS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES - CHALLENGES WHICH I AM SURE THE COUNCIL WILL MEET WITH CONFIDENCE AND RESOLUTION.+

THE REPORT, PRICED AT \$15, IS NOW ON SALE AT THE URBAN COUNCIL'S PUBLICATIONS CENTRES IN ICE HOUSE STREET AND ON THE MEZZANINE FLOOR OF THE KOWLOON CENTRAL LIBRARY BUILDING IN PUI CHING ROAD, AS WELL AS AT ITS BOOKSHOP IN THE FOYER OF THE CITY HALL LOW BLOCK. IT IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING BOOKSHOPS IN HONG KONG.

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#### URBCO TO RETURN ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS CONTROL \* \* \* \*

THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO RETURN TO THE GOVERNMENT ALL ITS CONTROL POWERS ON ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS.

THIS WAS STATED BY DR KIM CHAM, CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATION SELECT COMMITTEE, WHEN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY MR KWAN LIM-HO AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY.

DR CHAM POINTED OUT THAT UNDER CURRENT LEGISLATION, THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS POWER TO LICENSE +SKY SIGNS+, AND TO REQUIRE THE REMOVAL OF ANY ADVERTISEMENTS WHICH THE COUNCIL THINKS WOULD DISFIGURE THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF ANY SCENERY OR AFFECT INJURIOUSLY THE AMENITY OF ANY LOCALITY.

+IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE COUNCIL HAS THE THEORETICAL POWER TO LICENSE SKY SIGNS, IT HAS NEVER EXERCISED THIS AUTHORITY BECAUSE THE DEFINITION OF 'SKY SIGN', FORMERLY CONTAINED IN THE ADVERTISEMENTS REGULATION ORDINANCE WHICH WAS REPEALED IN 1960 FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE, NO LONGER EXISTS,+ HE SAID.

/AS REGARDS .....

AS REGARDS THE POWER TO REMOVE ADVERTISEMENTS CONSIDERED INJURIOUS TO THE AMENITY OF A LOCALITY, DR CHAM EXPLAINED: +IT WAS FOUND IN PRACTICE THAT MANY OF THESE SIGNS WERE OLD AND ILL-MAINTAINED NEON SIGNS WHOSE REMOVAL REQUIRED LEGAL POWERS AND ENGINEERING EXPERTISE NOT AVAILABLE TO THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WITHOUT ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

+BECAUSE OF THIS, THE COUNCIL AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON JULY 8, 1985 TO RETURN TO THE GOVERNMENT ALL ITS POWERS TO CONTROL, RESTRICT, OR PERMIT THE ERECTION, OR TO REQUIRE THE REMOVAL, OF ANY ADVERTISEMENT.+

DR CHAM RECALLED THAT BACK TO EARLY 1970S THE URBAN COUNCIL, IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE VISUAL IMPACT OF ADVERTISEMENTS IN HONG KONG, HAD CONSIDERED THE ADVISABILITY OF AMENDING THE LAW TO GAIN POWERS TO REQUIRE ALL ADVERTISEMENTS TO BE LICENSED AND RECOMMENDED TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT THIS BE DONE, SUBJECT TO THE GOVERNMENT MEETING THE COSTS OF THE EXERCISE.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED IN 1977 THAT IT COULD NOT COMMIT RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL.

+AS A RESULT OF THIS IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT THE COST OF ADMINISTERING THE LICENSING SYSTEM WOULD FAR EXCEED REVENUE. THE COUNCIL THEREFORE DECIDED ON OCTOBER 26, 1977 THAT THE LICENSING SCHEME FOR ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS BE DROPPED,+ DR CHAM STATED.

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#### MEASURES TO PROTECT GENERAL DUTIES TEAMS \* \* \* \*

THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT ARE TAKING MEASURES TO PROTECT MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL DUTIES TEAMS (GDTS) WHO ARE OFTEN ASSAULTED OR THREATENED BY HAWKERS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL'S MARKETS AND STREET TRADERS SELECT COMMITTEE, MRS ELSIE ELLIOTT TU, SAID AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY MR TONG KAM-BIU, MRS ELLIOTT TU NOTED THAT IN 1984 THERE WERE 90 CASES OF ASSAULT AGAINST GDT MEMBERS, NEARLY ONE QUARTER OF WHICH WERE COMMITTED IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT. THIS FIGURE REPRESENTED A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER IN COMPARISON WITH ITS 10 PER CENT SHARE OF THE HAWKER POPULATION, BOTH LICENSED AND UNLICENSED.

OF THE TOTAL, ONLY 63 PER CENT WERE SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED. THE REMINDER EITHER FAILED FOR INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OR BECAUSE THE HAWKERS WERE ABLE TO PRODUCE WITNESSES TO SUPPORT THEIR DEFENCE.

MRS ELLIOTT TU QUOTED GDT OFFICERS AS SAYING THAT IN SOME AREAS HAWKERS WERE MILITANT AND WELL ORGANISED, AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF CRIMINAL GANGS AND TRIADS WERE SUSPECTED.

+THE COUNCIL'S WORKING PARTY TO REVIEW HAWKER AND RELATED POLICIES WILL SHORTLY ISSUE A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENTS CONTAINING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY CHANGES WHICH WILL GENERALLY IMPROVE HAWKER MANAGEMENT AND THEREFORE RESULT IN LESS CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ILLEGAL HAWKERS AND GDT OFFICERS,+ SHE SAID.

+IN ADDITION, THE USD HAS SET UP A HAWKER CONTROL OPERATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF HAWKER MANAGEMENT ON THE GROUND. IT WILL REVIEW GDT ORGANISATION AND OPERATIONS WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY OF GDT OFFICERS.

+A NEW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, WHICH IS NOW BEING TRIED OUT, SHOULD ALSO ENABLE GDT OFFICERS TO BE MORE EFFICIENTLY DEPLOYED AND TO SUMMON ASSISTANCE QUICKLY WHEN THEY NEED IT.+

MRS. ELLIOTT TU SAID THE POLICE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH HAWKER CONTROL AND HAVE ALWAYS EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO GIVE ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED ON THEM BY THEIR OTHER COMMITMENTS AND SCARCE RESOURCES.

AND AT THE REGULAR SIX-MONTHLY MEETINGS BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES AND THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, THE USD REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ASKED FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SYSTEM OF PROVIDING POLICE ESCORTS FOR GDT SQUADS IN DIFFICULT AREAS OR WHEN THERE IS REASON TO ANTICIPATE TROUBLE. THEY HAVE ALSO ASKED FOR POLICE PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE HAWKER CONTROL OPERATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN SOON.

TURNING TO AN EXPERIMENTAL GDT STRUCTURE IN WAN CHAI AND YAU MA TEI DISTRICTS, MRS. ELLIOTT TU SAID IT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO THE END OF THE YEAR TO ALLOW THE NEW RADIO COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT TO BE TESTED.

THIS SCHEME PROVIDES MORE POSTS OF ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL OF A HIGHER CALIBRE WHO HAVE POWER OF ARREST AND SEIZURE.

+HOWEVER, SUBJECT TO THE ONE PROVISIO THAT IT CAN BE AS SUCCESSFUL GENERALLY AS IT APPEARS TO BE IN TWO OUT OF ELEVEN DISTRICTS, THE EXPERIMENTAL STRUCTURE SEEMS TO BE A DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PRESENT STRUCTURE,+ ADDED MRS ELLIOTT TU.

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LICENSING AUTHORITY ON BILLIARD SALOONS STRESSED  
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THE URBAN COUNCIL IS THE ONLY LICENSING AUTHORITY IN RESPECT OF BILLIARD SALOONS IN THE URBAN AREAS, SAID DR DENNY HUANG, CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE.

ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY, DR HUANG SAID IT WAS REPORTED IN THE NEWSPAPERS IN THE MIDDLE OF LAST MONTH THAT THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WOULD ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO AMEND THE RELEVANT REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE ALL CLUBS WHICH OPERATE A BILLIARD SALOON TO APPLY FOR A LICENCE.

+THE PUBLIC ARE MUCH PUZZLED, NOT KNOWING WHICH OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LICENSING OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS,+ HE SAID.

+SOME EVEN SUSPECT THAT THE URBAN COUNCIL IS NOT DOING ITS JOB PROPERLY. THIS IS MOST UNFAIR.

+AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE, I MUST SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT THE URBAN COUNCIL IS THE ONLY LICENSING AUTHORITY IN RESPECT OF BILLIARD SALOONS IN URBAN AREAS. IT IS MUCH TO BE REGRETTED THAT AT A TIME WHEN GOVERNMENT IS PROMOTING THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM, AN ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH HAS SEEN FIT TO INTERFERE IN THE FUNCTIONS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL HALF OF WHICH MEMBERSHIP ARE ELECTED BY POPULAR VOTE.+

HE EXPRESSED HOPES THAT THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE LEGITIMATE FUNCTIONS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL IN FUTURE.

DR HUANG SAID HIS COMMITTEE IS MUCH CONCERNED OVER A SURGE IN THE REGISTRATION OF CLUBS WHICH IN ESSENCE OPERATE MAINLY AS BILLIARD SALOONS IN RECENT YEARS.

THESE 'CLUBS' DO NOT HAVE TO APPLY FOR A LICENCE, NOR TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS LAID DOWN BY THE URBAN COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF BILLIARD SALOONS, SUCH AS THEY MAY NOT BE ESTABLISHED IN RESIDENTIAL PREMISES, BUSINESS HOURS MAY NOT BE EXTENDED BEYOND 2 A.M., AND THERE MUST BE CERTAIN FIRE SAFETY MEASURES, ETC.

AFTER RECEIPT OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE SITUATION BY A NUMBER OF BILLIARD SALOON LICENCEES IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, DR HUANG SAID HE IMMEDIATELY ASKED THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO PREPARE THE NECESSARY PAPER FOR DISCUSSION.

/+THE DEPARTMENT .....

+THE DEPARTMENT WAS VERY TARDY IN ITS INVESTIGATION, + HE SAID. +UPON MY REPEATED PROD, IT FINALLY SUBMITTED ITS REPORT ON THE 16TH OF LAST MONTH WHICH WAS PROMPTLY DISCUSSED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON THE 4TH OF THIS MONTH.

+IN THE PAPERS PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT, IT WAS ADMITTED THAT THE NUMBER OF BILLIARD SALOONS OPERATED BY CLUBS TREBLED OR QUADRUPLED THE LICENSED ONES, BUT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED THAT THOSE ALREADY IN OPERATION BE TOLERATED.

+THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION WAS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNCILLORS. A DECISION ON THE MATTER WILL BE MADE SHORTLY AFTER FURTHER DELIBERATIONS, + HE SAID.

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ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR ABERDEEN RCP BEING EXAMINED  
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DETAILED DESIGN WORK ON THE PROPOSED REFUSE COLLECTION POINT (RCP) AT ABERDEEN RESERVOIR ROAD HAS BEEN HELD UP IN VIEW OF OBJECTIONS TO ITS LOCATION AND THE REQUEST FROM THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD, SAID DR DENNY HUANG, CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE.

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY MR JOSEPH CHAN AT THE OPEN MEETING OF THE URBAN COUNCIL TODAY, DR HUANG SAID: +THE FEASIBILITY OF USING THE ALTERNATIVE SITES SUGGESTED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD IS BEING EXAMINED BY DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.

+SINCE THE SITE AT ABERDEEN RESERVOIR ROAD WAS CHOSEN AFTER LONG DELIBERATIONS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY ANOTHER SITE IN THE VICINITY WHERE ALL THE REQUIREMENT CAN BE MET.+

AS REGARDS THE PROPOSED RCP AT APLICHAU MAIN STREET, DR HUANG SAID THAT AFTER A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION, THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WERE SATISFIED THAT NO ALTERNATIVE SITE WAS AVAILABLE.

HE NOTED THAT THE EXISTING TEMPORARY REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AT THE WESTERN END OF APLICHAU MAIN STREET WOULD HAVE TO BE REMOVED NEXT YEAR TO MAKE WAY FOR THE APLICHAU RECLAMATION AND ASSOCIATED WORKS.

+IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL FOR THE PROPOSED NEW REFUSE COLLECTION POINT TO BE COMPLETED IN TIME TO MAINTAIN THE REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE IN THE AREA.

+CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW RCP IS NOW EXPECTED TO START IN DECEMBER THIS YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN LATE 1986, + DR HUANG SAID.

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NEW MEASURE TO ENSURE PERFORMANCES END ON TIME

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THE URBAN COUNCIL IS NOW CONSIDERING REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC PERFORMANCES HELD AT THE HONG KONG COLISEUM TO FINISH BY 11.30 P.M., SAID MR STEPHEN LAU, CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S ENTERTAINMENT SELECT COMMITTEE.

ALTHOUGH AN APPROXIMATE FINISHING TIME IS AGREED BETWEEN THE HIRERS AND THE COLISEUM MANAGEMENT BEFORE EACH CONCERT, HE SAID, IT IS OFTEN NOT ADHERED TO.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MR SAMUEL WONG AT THE OPEN MEETING OF THE URBAN COUNCIL TODAY, MR LAU RECALLED THAT IN A RECENT INCIDENT, THE AUDIENCE WAS IN THE PROCESS OF DISPERSING AND LARGE NUMBERS CONVERGED ON THE GANGWAYS.

+WHEN THE SINGER MADE HIS SURPRISE RE-APPEARANCE, THERE WAS GENUINE WORRIES THAT THE CHAOS MIGHT RESULT IN ACCIDENTS,+ HE SAID.

+IN THE LIGHT OF THIS INCIDENT, HIRERS HAVE NOW BEEN REQUESTED TO ADHERE MORE ACCURATELY TO THEIR SCHEDULED FINISHING TIME, AND TO ENSURE THAT THE PERFORMING ARTISTS WILL ALSO BE ADVISED PERSONALLY.

+AS A FURTHER SAFEGUARD, WE ARE CONSIDERING INTRODUCING A REQUIREMENT THAT PUBLIC PERFORMANCES MUST FINISH BY 11.30 P.M. IT IS THEN UP TO THE ORGANISERS TO TIME THE DURATION OF THEIR PERFORMANCES AND ADJUST THE COMMENCEMENT TIME AS NECESSARY.+

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PLAN FOR CONTROLS ON 'MINERAL WATER'

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A PROPOSAL THAT MEASURES BE TAKEN TO ESTABLISH STATUTORY CONTROL ON BOTTLED WATER SOLD AS +MINERAL WATER+ WAS ENDORSED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE) OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR LI TIN-MING, PROVIDES FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE CONTROL ON WATER PLACED IN A SEALED CONTAINER FOR SALE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

/+WITH THIS .....

+WITH THIS AMENDMENT, THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF 'MINERAL WATER' FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION WILL BE SUBJECT TO CONTROL UNDER EXISTING FOOD LAWS. MANUFACTURERS OF 'MINERAL WATER' WILL BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A FOOD FACTORY LICENCE FOR THE OPERATION, LI SAID.

A RECENT SURVEY HAD SHOWN THAT THERE WERE 40 DIFFERENT BRANDS OF BOTTLED +MINERAL WATER+, 14 OF THEM LOCAL AND 26 IMPORTED, ON SALE IN HONG KONG.

BUT, HE SAID, ALL THE SO-CALLED +MINERAL WATER+ PRODUCED LOCALLY WAS BOTTLED MAINS WATER WHICH MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN FILTERED OR STERILISED AND WHICH MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD MINERALS ADDED TO IT.

MR LI SAID THAT IF CONTROLS WERE INTRODUCED ON THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF SUCH BOTTLED MINERAL WATER, GUIDELINES WOULD BE SET FOR PROVIDING EVIDENCE OF UNFITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION IN PROSECUTIONS BROUGHT UNDER SECTION 54 OF THE ORDINANCE.

THE GUIDELINES WOULD BE THAT THE QUALITY OF BOTTLED WATER SOLD AS +MINERAL WATER+ SHOULD CONFORM TO THE CODEX STANDARD FOR NATURAL MINERAL WATERS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION. THESE STANDARDS GIVE IN DETAIL THE PERMISSIBLE LIMITS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL CONTENTS IN NATURAL MINERAL WATERS, MR LI ADDED.

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SERVICES IMPROVED \* \* \* \* \*

ABOUT 5 600 STAFF MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, OR 65 PER CENT OF ITS ENTIRE FORCE, ARE INVOLVED IN THE IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, MR LI TIN-MING, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE, HE SAID WORK INCLUDED PUBLIC CLEANSING, DISTRICT HYGIENE WORK, MANAGEMENT OF HAWKERS AND MARKETS, MANAGEMENT OF CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA, MEAT INSPECTION SERVICES, LICENSING AND PROSECUTION.

HE EXPLAINED THAT PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES INCLUDE STREET SWEEPING, REFUSE AND NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT OF REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS, PUBLIC TOILETS AND BATHHOUSES, STREET WASHING AND GULLY CLEANSING.

+IN THE PROCESS, 1 000 TONNES OF REFUSE ARE COLLECTED DAILY,+ HE SAID.

DISTRICT HYGIENE WORK, WHICH TOOK UP THE BULK OF THE RSD HEALTH INSPECTORATE'S RESOURCES, INCLUDED CONTROL OF LICENSED PREMISES, DETECTION AND ABATEMENT OF SANITARY NUISANCES, RODENT AND PEST CONTROL, WATER HYGIENE (INCLUDING SAMPLING FOR CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES), FOOD HYGIENE, AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION ON LICENSED PREMISES.

+AS AT JULY 31, 1985, THERE WERE 4 743 LICENCES AND PERMITS IN FORCE FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS, PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT AND OTHER SERVICE OPERATIONS. THESE PREMISES ARE REGULARLY INSPECTED BY THE DISTRICT HEALTH INSPECTORS,+ MR LI SAID.

THE RSD WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF 37 PUBLIC MARKETS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION. THEY PROVIDED A TOTAL OF 4 456 STALLS. THERE ARE ALSO 4 314 LICENSED HAWKERS (1 808 FIXED PITCH AND 2 506 ITINERANT). THE NUMBER OF UNLICENSED HAWKERS WAS ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE REGION OF 2 000.

+TO KEEP HAWKERS UNDER CONTROL, THE DEPARTMENT'S GENERAL DUTIES TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTION SUCH AS ARRESTS, SEIZURES AND DISPERSION. THEY ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR REORDERING AND RESITING HAWKERS INTO PURPOSE-BUILT PUBLIC MARKETS,+ MR LI SAID.

IN 1984, RSD'S MEAT INSPECTORS INSPECTED A TOTAL OF 867 667 PIG CARCASSES AND 43 963 CATTLE CARCASSES IN THE THREE PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS.

IN THE SAME PERIOD, 1 076 APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES-PERMITS WERE PROCESSED BY ITS LICENSING SECTION WHILE THE PROSECUTION SECTION TOOK 11 536 CASES TO THE COURTS, RESULTING IN TOTAL FINES OF \$3 171 073.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE RSD WOULD BE REPLACING SOME OF THE EXISTING 200-LITRE METAL DRUMS USED FOR STORAGE OF REFUSE IN TRANSIT WITH PURPOSE-DESIGNED 600-LITRE RECTANGULAR PLASTIC CONTAINERS.

MR LI SAID THESE NEW RECTANGULAR CONTAINERS COMPARED FAVOURABLY WITH TRADITIONAL REFUSE DRUMS AS THEY HAD A BIGGER CAPACITY AND LONGER LIFE EXPECTANCY.

+BECAUSE OF THEIR SPECIAL DESIGN FEATURES, THEY CAN ALSO BE FITTED TO THE SPECIAL LIFTING DEVICE OF A REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLE FOR MECHANICAL LOADING. A RESULT OF THIS IS THAT TWO LESS REFUSE LOADERS ARE REQUIRED FOR EACH REFUSE COLLECTION ROUTE. IT WOULD ADD TO A TOTAL SAVINGS PER ROUTE PER YEAR OF ABOUT \$98 000,+ HE ADDED.

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EXTENSIVE TRIALS IN SAI KUNG AND YUEN LONG BETWEEN MARCH 1983 AND AUGUST 1984 FOUND THAT IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL ADVANTAGES COULD BE DERIVED FROM USING THE NEW TYPE CONTAINERS. THEIR SELF-CLOSING LIDS SHARPLY REDUCED SMELL AND THE NUISANCE OF FLIES.

MR LI ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE BIGGER CAPACITY OF THE RECTANGULAR CONTAINERS AND MECHANICAL LOADING WOULD SPEED UP THE COLLECTION PROCESS AND THEREBY REDUCE THE NUISANCE AND ANNOYANCE ASSOCIATED WITH REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE.

AT PRESENT, TWO RECTANGULAR-CONTAINER REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLE ROUTES WERE IN OPERATION IN THE YUEN LONG AND SAI KUNG DISTRICTS. PENDING ARRIVAL OF THE NEW CONTAINERS ON ORDER, THE NEW REFUSE COLLECTION SYSTEM WOULD BE INTRODUCED TO SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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#### NEW CEMETERY TO MEET ISLANDS DISTRICT NEEDS \* \* \* \*

THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL TODAY ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A PUBLIC CEMETERY AT MUI WO TO CATER TO THE NEEDS OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT.

THE PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE) OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR LI TIN-MING, WHO SAID THAT THERE WERE ONLY 56 VACANT PLOTS LEFT AT THE TAI O PUBLIC CEMETERY ON LANTAU.

HE SAID THE FEASIBILITY OF EXTENDING TAI O CEMETERY BY FORMING NEW BURIAL TERRACES ON THE ADJACENT LAND HAD BEEN STUDIED AND RULED OUT BECAUSE OF THE PROHIBITIVELY HIGH COST OF SITE FORMATION WORK WHICH WAS DUE TO THE TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES AND GEOLOGY OF THE EXTENSION AREA.

THE PROPOSED CEMETERY SITE AT MUI WO IS ABOUT THREE HECTARES IN AREA AND ABOUT 2 700 BURIAL SPACES COULD EVENTUALLY BE PROVIDED.

STAGE I OF THE PROJECT WOULD INVOLVE THE WIDENING OF THE EXISTING FOOTPATH LEADING TO THE PROPOSED SITE, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF 200-300 BURIAL SPACES TOGETHER WITH THE NECESSARY DRAINAGE AND SLOPE PROTECTION WORKS. COST OF THIS STAGE OF THE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$1.45 MILLION.

STAGE II OF THE PROJECT, WHICH INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF ANOTHER 400-500 BURIAL PLACES, WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN ON COMPLETION OF STAGE I.

THE COMMITTEE ENDORSED THE CREATION OF A NEW ITEM IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME FOR THE PROVISION OF THE FIRST TWO STAGES OF THE PROPOSED PUBLIC CEMETERY AT MUI WO.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1985

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**BAN ON LEARNER DRIVERS**

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KWAI CHUNG ROAD BETWEEN CHING CHEUNG ROAD AND LAI KING HILL ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED A +LEARNER DRIVER PROHIBITED+ ZONE FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 13).

THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TAI PO ROAD OUTSIDE RACECOURSE STATION AT SHA TIN WILL BE REDUCED FROM THREE-LANE TO ONE-LANE TRAFFIC BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 6 AM ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14) TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

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**WAN CHAI WATER CUT**

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN WAN CHAI WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 13) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY MORRISON HILL ROAD, HENNESSY ROAD, HEARD STREET, WING CHEUNG STREET AND OI KWAN ROAD.

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