



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 1985

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CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR DB'S  
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE ALL STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE INTERNAL DYNAMICS OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WILL BE SUSTAINED, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

AND HE ASSURED THAT THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES WOULD CONTINUE TO RESPOND PROMPTLY AND POSITIVELY TO THE ADVICE OF THE BOARDS.

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES ASSOCIATION, MR LIAO SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE NEW STYLE DISTRICT BOARDS, WITH THEIR OWN CHAIRMEN, WOULD WANT TO TAKE EVEN MORE INITIATIVES AND WORK IN HARMONY TOWARDS THE COMMON GOAL OF ENHANCING THE WELFARE OF LOCAL RESIDENTS.

+MUCH OF THE FUTURE OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WILL HINGE ON THE CONSCIENTIOUS AND POSITIVE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS IN THE FORTHCOMING YEARS,+ HE SAID.

+LET THERE BE DIFFERENCES BUT NO CONFRONTATION; LET THERE BE DISAGREEMENT BUT NO CONFLICTS, AS THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF ANY ASSEMBLY LIES IN THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN ITS MEMBERS,+ HE SAID.

IT WOULD ALSO DEVOLVE ON BOARD MEMBERS TO FURTHER DEVELOP AND CEMENT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS, HE ADDED, SO AS TO MAKE THE BOARDS AN EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE ORGAN IN REFLECTING THE VIEWS AND WISHES OF THE PEOPLE.

MR LIAO SAID A SIGNIFICANT DIMENSION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AT THIS STAGE WAS ITS FURTHER INTEGRATION WITH THE OTHER COMPONENTS OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM -- THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN SEPTEMBER, THE DISTRICT BOARDS AS WELL AS THE REGIONAL AND URBAN COUNCILS WOULD ELECT MEMBERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+TOGETHER WITH THE 350-STRONG ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, THESE BOARDS AND COUNCILS WILL CONSTITUTE A UNIQUE AND SOPHISTICATED POLITICAL MACHINERY PROVIDING FOR BOTH CONSULTATION AND REPRESENTATION.+

NOTING THAT THERE WAS NO SIMILAR SYSTEM ELSEWHERE, MR LIAO SAID, +THIS IS A HONG KONG PRODUCT INGENUOUSLY DESIGNED TO SUIT OUR OWN CIRCUMSTANCES, OUR OWN SOCIETY, WHICH IS A COMBINATION OF PRAGMATISM AND PROGRESSIVENESS.+

MR LIAO SAID THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN STEADY BUT PROGRESSIVE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, AND A SOLID FOUNDATION HAD BEEN LAID BY THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT.

/+WE HAVE .....

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+WE HAVE INDEED COME A LONG WAY IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, DURING WHICH THE REGISTERED ELECTORATE HAD INCREASED FROM LESS THAN 40 000 TO MORE THAN 1.4 MILLION,+ HE SAID.

THE RECENT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, HE SAID, CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE PREVIOUS CRITICISM OF POLITICAL APATHY AMONGST THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WAS NO LONGER VALID.

+WHATEVER INTERPRETATION ONE MAY MAKE OUT OF THE TURNOUT FIGURES, THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR ENOUGH AND THAT IS THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE PLEDGED GREATER SUPPORT TO DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION,+ HE SAID.

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#### HIGH RISK OF TETANUS AMONG HEROIN ADDICTS

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A RECENT STUDY BY THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT REVEALED THAT OF ALL THE 67 PERSONS IN HONG KONG WHO CONTRACTED TETANUS BETWEEN APRIL 1981 AND SEPTEMBER 1984, 54 OR 81 PER CENT OF THEM WERE HEROIN ADDICTS AND FOR 46 OR 85 PER CENT OF THESE ADDICTS, THE TETANUS PROVED FATAL.

THESE GRIM STATISTICS TOOK NO ACCOUNT OF THE RUINED LIVES, CRIMINAL ACTS AND OTHER SOCIAL EVILS WHICH ACCOMPANIED HEROIN ADDICTION, THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GORDON MORTIMER, SAID AT THE OPENING OF THE +DRUG AWARENESS FORTNIGHT+.

+HEROIN ADDICTION CONTINUES TO BE A SERIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEM,+ MR MORTIMER SAID. +THE ABUSE OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS, WHICH CAN BE JUST AS HARMFUL AS HEROIN, IS NOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN HONG KONG ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT INDICATIONS.

+WE ARE NOT EXPERIENCING AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CASES ADMITTED TO THE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS. THERE IS NO PERCEPTIBLE DRUG RELATED DETERIORATION IN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE SCHOOLS, AND THERE IS NO UPSURGE IN ABSENTEEISM AT SCHOOL OR IN THE WORK PLACE,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE HOW MANY PEOPLE MIGHT BE ABUSING PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS ON AN OCCASIONAL OR CASUAL BASIS AND WHO HAD NOT YET FELT IN NEED OF MEDICAL TREATMENT.

THE NARCOTICS DIVISION CONTINUED TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CAREFULLY THROUGH THE ANALYSIS OF REPORTS TO THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE (CRDA), THROUGH SPECIAL SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY CERTAIN OF THE REPORTING AGENCIES, AND THROUGH SEIZURES OF ILLICIT PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS.

THE DANGERS OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG ABUSE WERE INCLUDED IN THE DRUG EDUCATION TALKS CONDUCTED BY THE SCHOOL TALKS TEAM OF THE NARCOTICS DIVISION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE URGED TO SAFEGUARD THEIR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING.

/MR MORTIMER .....

MR MORTIMER SAID THAT IN 1984, THERE WAS A 14.8 PER CENT REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE OF ALL AGES NEWLY REPORTED FOR DRUG ABUSE COMPARED WITH 1983 AND A 21 PER CENT REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 21.

+HOWEVER,+ HE ADDED, +THERE IS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY.+

REFERRING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE, MR MORTIMER SAID IT WAS GROWING STRONGER AS THE WORLD DRUG ABUSE SITUATION DETERIORATED.

+NO SINGLE COUNTRY CAN WIN THIS BATTLE ALONE,+ HE SAID. +DRUG TRAFFICKERS HAVE NO RESPECT FOR NATIONAL BOUNDARIES. A CONCERTED EFFORT IS THEREFORE REQUIRED TO COMBAT AN INTERNATIONAL MENACE.

+HONG KONG HAS FOR MANY YEARS PAST RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THIS FIELD.+ MR MORTIMER SAID.

IN MAY LAST YEAR, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT MADE ITS TENTH ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF HK\$100 000 TO THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL, MAKING A TOTAL CONTRIBUTION OF HK\$1 MILLION SINCE 1975. THE FUND UNDERTOOK DRUG ABUSE CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN SEVERAL REGIONS OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING A POPPY CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMME IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE.

IN ADDITION, HONG KONG MADE FREELY AVAILABLE ITS EXPERTISE IN ANTI-NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION AND PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY FOR THE TRAINING OF OVERSEAS OFFICIALS. IN 1984, 158 OVERSEAS OFFICIALS VISITED HONG KONG TO STUDY OUR ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK.

MR MORTIMER ALSO PRAISED THE LIONS INTERNATIONAL FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE WORLD-WIDE.

+IN HONG KONG, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LIONS DRUG AWARENESS COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DIRECTIVE OF LIONS INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, HAS LED TO A STRENGTHENING OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLACING FORMER ADDICTS IN GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT AND TO INCREASING COMMUNITY AWARENESS TO THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE,+ HE SAID.

THE +DRUG AWARENESS FORTNIGHT+, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, DISTRICT 303 AND THE LEO DISTRICT COUNCIL 303, THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS (SARDA) AND THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT OF THE UNITED CHRISTIAN SERVICES, AIMED AT PROMOTING AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE CAMPAIGN, BEGINNING TODAY, WOULD INCLUDE A SERIES OF ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES SUCH AS EXHIBITIONS, SEMINARS, MEDICAL CHECKS AND VARIETY SHOWS.

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STUDY SHOWS WIDESPREAD USE OF AUTOMATION  
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THE USE OF AUTOMATIC EQUIPMENT IN HONG KONG CAN BE REGARDED AS FAIRLY WIDESPREAD, WITH THE VALUE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT IMPORTED SHOWING RAPID INCREASES YEAR BY YEAR.

THIS IS ONE OF THE FINDINGS OF A STUDY CARRIED OUT BY THE TOWN PLANNING DIVISION OF THE LANDS DEPARTMENT AT THE REQUEST OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND SUPPLY.

KNOWN AS THE +STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF OFFICE AUTOMATION+, A TOTAL OF 488 FIRMS WERE CANVASSED ON THE USE OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT RANGING FROM COMPUTERISED TELEPHONE SYSTEM TO WORD PROCESSORS.

THE SURVEY SHOWS THAT 42 PER CENT OF ALL SURVEYED FIRMS USED COMPUTERISED EQUIPMENT OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER. THE PROSPECT IS ALSO GOOD AS 66 PER CENT OF THESE FIRMS INDICATED THEY INTEND TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER AUTOMATION IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

IT HAS ALSO FOUND THAT LARGE FIRMS HAVE A HIGHER DEGREE AS WELL AS A LONGER HISTORY OF AUTOMATION THAN MEDIUM AND SMALL FIRMS.

IN TERMS OF TRADE, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, COMMUNICATION, AIR AND WATER TRANSPORT FIRMS HAVE USED MORE AUTOMATIC EQUIPMENT THAN OTHERS.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY, WHICH STARTED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR, ARE:

- \* IDENTIFYING THE TRENDS OF OFFICE AUTOMATION IN HONG KONG;
- \* ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF OFFICE AUTOMATION ON FLOOR SPACE REQUIREMENT;
- \* EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF OFFICE AUTOMATION ON EMPLOYMENT;
- \* FINDING OUT THE FLOOR SPACE ALLOCATION PER OFFICE WORKER; AND
- \* APPRAISING THE EFFECT OF OFFICE AUTOMATION ON THE LOCATION OF OFFICES.

ON THE IMPACT OF AUTOMATION ON FLOOR SPACE REQUIREMENTS, THE MAJORITY OF THE SURVEYED FIRMS EITHER REPORTED NO CHANGE IN SPACE REQUIREMENTS OR THAT THEY COULD NOT ATTRIBUTE THE INCREASE TO AUTOMATION OR GENERAL EXPANSION. ONLY 13 PER CENT ATTRIBUTED THEIR INCREASE IN SPACE REQUIREMENTS (MOSTLY 10 PER CENT OR LESS) DIRECTLY TO OFFICE AUTOMATION.

/THE AREA .....

THE AREA OCCUPIED BY COMPUTERS AND AUTOMATIC EQUIPMENT FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE SURVEYED FIRMS IS LESS THAN EIGHT PER CENT OF THEIR OFFICE AREAS.

IN FACT, SOME 21 PER CENT OF THE FIRMS HAVE NO SPECIFIC AREAS DESIGNED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC MACHINES. FURTHERMORE, OFFICE AUTOMATION HAS STREAMLINED OFFICE OPERATIONS AND REDUCED SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION STORAGE.

THE STUDY SUPPORTS THE RESULTS OF OVERSEAS RESEARCH THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO SINGLE OUT THE IMPACT OF OFFICE AUTOMATION ON SPACE REQUIREMENTS FROM OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS EXPANSION OR CONTRACTION OF BUSINESS.

IN THE CONTEXT OF OVERALL DEMAND FOR OFFICE SPACE, NEW TECHNOLOGY HAS CREATED NEW TRADES AND EXTENDED THE SCOPE OF EXISTING TRADES WHICH MAY OFFSET THE SPACE SAVING EFFECT OF AUTOMATION ON INDIVIDUAL FIRMS.

ON EMPLOYMENT, THE STUDY SHOWS THAT AUTOMATION HAS SAVED LABOUR, ESPECIALLY IN ROUTINE CLERICAL FUNCTIONS. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT REDUNDANCIES HAVE NOT OCCURRED DUE TO REDEPLOYMENT, RETRAINING AND NATURAL WASTAGE.

IT IS, NEVERTHELESS, ENVISAGED THAT AUTOMATION MAY HAVE A DAMPENING EFFECT ON THE GROWTH RATE OF OFFICE EMPLOYMENT IN THE LONG RUN.

BUT, ACCORDING TO SOME OVERSEAS RESEARCH, IT HAS BEEN POSTULATED THAT THE LABOUR SAVING EFFECT OF AUTOMATION WILL BE OUTWEIGHED BY NEW JOBS CREATED. TO WHAT EXTENT THIS PHENOMENON IS TAKING PLACE IN HONG KONG HAS YET TO BE ASCERTAINED.

TURNING TO FLOOR SPACE ALLOCATION, IT SHOWS THE AVERAGE OFFICE FLOOR SPACE ALLOCATION RATIO FOR THE TERRITORY IS 13.15 SQUARE METRES PER WORKER. THE RATIO FOR FIRMS WITH AND WITHOUT AUTOMATION ARE 13.65 SQUARE METRES PER WORKER AND 12.96 SQUARE METRES PER WORKER RESPECTIVELY.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN FOUND THAT FIRMS WITH A LONGER HISTORY OF AUTOMATION HAVE A SLIGHTLY HIGHER RATIO THAN THOSE UNDERTAKING OFFICE AUTOMATION FOR A SHORTER PERIOD OF TIME.

ACCORDING TO SOME OVERSEAS RESEARCH, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HAS ENABLED DECISION-MAKERS TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY, CONTROL AND COMMAND DIRECTLY WITH BRANCH OFFICES OVER LONG DISTANCES.

IN THIS STUDY, IT HAS BEEN NOTICED THAT A FEW LARGE COMPANIES HAVE DECENTRALISED PART OF THEIR OFFICE OPERATIONS WHICH REQUIRE LITTLE DIRECT CONTACT WITH CLIENTS OR CUSTOMERS.

WHETHER OTHER LARGE COMPANIES WILL FOLLOW SUIT DEPENDS ON THE INTERPLAY OF SEVERAL FACTORS SUCH AS RENTAL, COST OF TECHNOLOGY AND COMPANY STRATEGY.

IN CONCLUSION, THE STUDY INDICATES THAT THE ADOPTION OF OFFICE AUTOMATION BY FIRMS IN HONG KONG IS GATHERING PACE.

+OFFICE AUTOMATION DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE FLOOR SPACE ALLOCATION RATIO AND THE FLOOR SPACE REQUIREMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL FIRMS. HOWEVER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS IN QUANTITATIVE TERMS ITS EFFECT ON BOTH EMPLOYMENT AND FLOOR SPACE REQUIREMENTS,+ IT SAID.

+THIS MAY POINT TO THE NEED THAT OFFICE AUTOMATION SHOULD BE STUDIED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ECONOMY AND NOT TO BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION SO FAR AS FORECASTS OF FLOOR SPACE AND EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS ARE CONCERNED.

+OFFICE AUTOMATION PLAYS A FACILITATING ROLE IN DECENTRALISING CERTAIN OFFICE OPERATIONS WHICH REQUIRE LITTLE DIRECT CONTACT WITH CLIENTS/CUSTOMERS. THE EXTENT TO WHICH LOCAL FIRMS WILL CAPITALISE ON THIS ASPECT, HOWEVER, REMAINS TO BE SEEN,+ IT SAID.

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#### FUNDS FOR SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME \* \* \* \*

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS WISHING TO ORGANISE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMMES IN SAI KUNG DISTRICT, SHOULD MAKE USE OF THE LAST 10 DAYS TO APPLY FOR FUNDS FROM THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD.

DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN HO, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT BOARD HAD ALWAYS ASSISTED LOCAL BODIES IN ORGANISING MEANINGFUL YOUTH ACTIVITIES DURING SUMMER, AND ENCOURAGING MORE LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION FOR FUNDS IS APRIL 4.

THE SAI KUNG SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC, WOULD BE SET UP NEXT MONTH TO PROCESS THE APPLICATIONS.

MR HO SAID THE COMMITTEE WOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE OBJECTIVES= THE EXPECTED TURNOUT= DETAILS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID THE THEME OF THE LOCAL SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME, HELD FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER, WOULD BE IN LINE WITH THAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR 1985 WHICH IS +PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE+.

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+THROUGH THESE ACTIVITIES, WE HOPE TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTHS AGED BETWEEN 6 AND 24 TO EXPRESS THEIR TALENTS, CULTIVATE HEALTHY PURSUITS, HELP THEM GAIN EXPERIENCE IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIP, AND TO INSTILL IN THEM, A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY,+ MR HO SAID.

INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS SHOULD CONTACT MISS VIKKI YIU AT 3-2814455 EXT 24.

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MAINTENANCE WORKS AT NT BEACHES  
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LIFE-GUARDS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT CARRIED OUT MAINTENANCE WORKS AT THE 29 GAZETTED PUBLIC BATHING BEACHES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES BEFORE LIFE-SAVING SERVICE RESUMES ON APRIL 1.

THROUGHOUT THE WINTER SEASON WHEN THEY WERE NOT REQUIRED FOR PERFORMING LIFE-SAVING DUTIES, THEY REPAIRED BEACH FACILITIES AND CLEARED AWAY PEBBLES, REFUSE AND DEBRIS AT THE BEACHES.

THEY ALSO PLANTED TREES AND SHRUBS AND CUT AWAY THE WILD VEGETATION.

AT LIDO BEACH IN TSUEN WAN, LIFE-GUARDS PUT UP A NEW WOODEN LOOKOUT POST AT THE BEACH.

MORE BARBECUE PITS, PICNIC TABLES AND BENCHES ARE ALSO BUILT AT LIDO BEACH, CASAM BEACH, GEMINI BEACH, NEW CAFETERIA BEACH, BUTTERFLY BEACH AND HUNG SHING YEH BEACH.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR TWO BUILDING PROJECTS  
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THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO LOCAL OPEN SPACES AT TAI PEI TAU PATH AND SAI CHING STREET, YUEN LONG.

FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE PAVILIONS, CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS, ARBOURS, PLANTERS, BENCHES AND STORE ROOMS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MAY AND BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

/MEANWHILE, THE .....

MEANWHILE, THE OFFICE IS INVITING TENDERS FOR BUILDING AN INDOOR GAMES HALL AT BOUNDARY STREET, KOWLOON.

THE TWO-STOREY HALL BUILDING WILL COMPRISE A BASKET-CUM-BADMINTON COURT, FOUR SQUASH COURTS WITH VIEWING GALLERY, CHANGING ROOMS AND A RECEPTION AREA AND LOBBY.

WORK IS SCHEDULED TO START IN JUNE AND WILL TAKE A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

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#### ANTI-MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN STEPPED UP

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WITH THE APPROACH OF THE WARM AND HUMID MONTHS, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS TO STEP UP ITS WAR AGAINST MOSQUITOES IN ALL 11 URBAN DISTRICTS.

BEGINNING NEXT MONTH, AN ANTI-MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN WILL GET OFF THE GROUND TO ELIMINATE POTENTIAL MOSQUITO BREEDING PLACES INCLUDING ALL HILLY STREAMS AND SEEPAGES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND ALONG THE SLOPES OF THE KOWLOON HILL RANGE. THIS WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY REGULAR APPLICATION OF LARVICIDAL OIL AND INSECTICIDES.

+IN THE MEANTIME, LETTERS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO BUILDING CONTRACTORS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS OR OCCUPIERS OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS AND MANAGERMENTS OF LARGE HOUSING PROJECTS TO AROUSE THEIR ATTENTION AND CO-OPERATION,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

+EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL SUCH AS ANTI-MOSQUITO POSTERS AND HANDBILLS ARE ALSO BEING SENT TO SCHOOLS AS WELL AS DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION FOR DISPLAY AND FREE DISTRIBUTION.+

DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD, THE DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT HEALTH STAFF WILL BE ON HAND TO OFFER ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC CONCERNING MOSQUITO NUISANCE.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT MOSQUITOES BREED ONLY IN STAGNANT WATER AND THE FOLLOWING MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PREVENT THIS HAPPENING:

- + PROPERLY DISPOSE OF ALL USELESS TINS, JARS, BOTTLES AND OLD TYRES
- + KEEP ALL WATER STORAGE TANKS AND WELLS COVERED
- + ENSURE THAT SHADES ARE CLEAR OF REFUSE AND WASTE WATER

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- + KEEP DRAINS AND ALL DRAIN INLETS CLEAR OF REFUSE AND
- + CHANGE WATER IN FLOWER VASES FREQUENTLY AND SEE THAT NO WATER ACCUMULATES IN THE TRAYS OF FLOWER POTS.

HE WARNED THAT UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE, IT IS AN OFFENCE TO ALLOW THE BREEDING OF MOSQUITOES. OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10 000.

DURING LAST YEAR, THE CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOOK OUT 472 SUMMONSES, RESULTING IN TOTAL FINES OF MORE THAN \$491 000.

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#### STUDY ROOMS TO BE OPENED ON WEEKENDS

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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL EXTEND A PILOT SCHEME TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY STUDY ROOMS FOR STUDENTS ON WEEKENDS, DURING THE EXAMINATION PERIOD.

TWO STUDY ROOMS, ONE AT THE HOK SHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WAH FU ESTATE AND THE OTHER AT THE TANG SHIU KIN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE WILL BE OPENED FROM 1 PM TO 6 PM ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND JUNE 30.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID THAT TEMPORARY STUDY ROOMS OPERATED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT PRESENT, WERE OPENED ON WEEKDAYS ONLY.

+THE COMMITTEE STARTED A PILOT SCHEME OVER THE SAME THREE-MONTH PERIOD LAST YEAR, WITH TWO TEMPORARY STUDY ROOMS IN THE DISTRICT WHICH WERE OPEN ON WEEKENDS.

+THE UTILISATION RATE WAS FOUND TO BE SATISFACTORY AND IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE SCHEME SHOULD CONTINUE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD AGREED TO FINANCE THE SCHEME. IF THE SCHEME WAS SUCCESSFUL, THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF STUDY ROOM PROVISION COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WOULD CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING IT ON A PERMANENT BASIS, HE SAID.

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COURSES ON USE OF AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT  
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A SERIES OF COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN APRIL 24 AND JUNE 7 FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ON THE USE OF COMMON AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT.

THE AIM OF THE COURSES IS TO ACQUAINT PARTICIPANTS WITH THE BASIC TECHNIQUE OF HANDLING AND MAINTAINING EQUIPMENT SUCH AS 16 MM FILM PROJECTORS, FILMSTRIP/SLIDE PROJECTORS, OVERHEAD PROJECTORS AND PORTABLE AMPLIFIERS WITH BUILT-IN CASSETTE RECORDERS.

ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT ROOM 330, LEE GARDENS, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, HONG KONG.

CLASSES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE AND THERE WILL BE PLACES FOR 12 TEACHERS IN EACH CLASS.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS WISHING TO NOMINATE THEIR TEACHERS TO ATTEND SHOULD SEND IN THEIR APPLICATIONS BEFORE APRIL 2 TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR OF THE VISUAL EDUCATION SECTION, ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, 3/F, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG.

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FIELD STUDIES DAY ON COUNTRY PARKS  
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EIGHTY IN-SERVICE TEACHERS WILL ATTEND A FIELD STUDIES DAY AT THE SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK ON TUESDAY (MARCH 26) TO GET FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON HONG KONG'S COUNTRY PARKS.

THE EVENT IS ARRANGED BY GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THE FIELD STUDIES DAY, WHICH FORMS PART OF AN EIGHT-WEEK PRIMARY RETRAINING COURSE, WILL ENABLE THE TEACHERS TO HAVE AN INSIGHT OF THE WORK OF THE CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS BRANCH OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE USE OF COUNTRY PARKS FOR EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

THE DAY'S PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE A GUIDED TOUR OF THE NEWLY OPENED SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE AND THE PAK TAM CHUNG NATURE TRAIL, A TALK ON +COUNTRYSIDE EDUCATION ACTIVITIES+, AND A GENERAL DISCUSSION SESSION.

THE TEACHERS WILL MEET AND DISCUSS WITH OFFICERS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ON MATTERS RELATING TO COUNTRY PARK FACILITIES FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AS WELL AS COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION.

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SEVEN-HOUR WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN WONG CHUK HANG AREA WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 27) FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY WONG CHUK HANG ROAD FROM ABERDEEN SPORTSGROUND TO SHOUSON HILL ROAD, OCEAN PARK ROAD, NAM FUNG ROAD AND WONG CHUK HANG PATH INCLUDING OCEAN PEAK.

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HALF-HOUR ROAD CLOSURE

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THE SECTION OF TAI PO ROAD NEAR ST. CHRISTOPHER'S HOME AT 13 MILESTONE WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 1.30 AM AND 2 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 27), FOR BRIDGE WORKS.

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NOTE TO TV NEWS EDITORS:

PLEASE BROADCAST THE ABOVE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YOUR MORNING TRAFFIC BULLETINS.

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SAFETY FROM CRIME +DOWN+ THE TUBES+

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CRIMINALS JUST LOATHE HONG KONG'S UNDERGROUND RAILWAY.

AND WITH GOOD REASON. ALMOST EVERYTHING ABOUT THE TERRITORY'S SIX-YEAR-OLD MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, IS POSITIVELY REPULSIVE TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.

YET, THERE COULD HAVE BEEN VAST CRIME POTENTIAL IN A SYSTEM WHICH, IN TERMS OF PASSENGER DENSITY PER KILOMETRE OF TRACK, IS BY FAR THE WORLD'S BUSIEST.

ON A NORMAL DAY, THE MTR CARRIES 1.2 MILLION PEOPLE. BUT THIS IS EXPECTED TO SOAR SOON TO TWO MILLION PER DAY.

"THE POLICE WERE IN ON THE PLANNING STAGES OF HONG KONG'S UNDERGROUND PROJECT VERY EARLY ON, SO WE WERE ABLE TO DESIGN-OUT THE POTENTIAL CRIME TROUBLE SPOTS. AND IT WORKS, WE'VE PROVED IT," EXPLAINS THE COMMANDER OF THE MTR DISTRICT OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE, SUPERINTENDENT JAMIE CLEMENTS. "OUR UNDERGROUND'S CRIME SCENE IS VERY PETTY AND VERY, VERY LOW."

TO DEMONSTRATE, HE POINTS TO THE WALL CHARTS IN HIS HEADQUARTERS AT KOWLOON BAY, WHICH ARE DRAWN TO AN ASTONISHINGLY SMALL SCALE IN ORDER TO PRODUCE ANYTHING VISIBLE AT ALL. THE COLUMN GRAPH REPRESENTING PETTY THEFTS OF MTR EQUIPMENT FOR THE MONTH LOOMS LARGEST. IT LOOKS SINISTER -- BUT IT REPRESENTS ONLY FIVE CASES.

"IN ANY CATEGORY," SAID MR CLEMENTS, "SIX, TO ME, IS A CRIME WAVE."

IN 1984, WELL OVER 413,000,000 PEOPLE USED THE RAILWAY AND THERE WERE 213 CASES OF CRIME. OF THESE, 129 WERE SOLVED -- GIVING A DETECTION RATE OF 60.6 PER CENT.

THERE WERE FIVE CASES OF ROBBERY, FOUR SNATCHINGS, AND THREE CASES OF INDECENT ASSAULT ON A FEMALE (IN WHICH ALL THREE CULPRITS WERE CAUGHT). PICKPOCKETING ADDED A FURTHER 41 CASES (13 DETECTED), AND THERE WERE 31 THEFTS OF MTR EQUIPMENT. POSSESSION OF FORGED IDs OR TRAVEL PASSES, POSSESSION OF DRUGS, DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND RESISTING ARREST WERE AMONG OTHER CRIMES WHICH GAVE MINOR BOOSTS TO THE FIGURES, AND MANY OF THE ARRESTS MADE IN THE MTR RELATED TO CRIMES COMMITTED ELSEWHERE.

STRIKINGLY, MOST OF THE CRIMES DID NOT INVOLVE OTHER MTR PASSENGERS AS VICTIMS.

/IN CONTRAST .....

IN CONTRAST TO UNDERGROUND RAIL SYSTEMS IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, A PASSENGER ENTERING ONE OF HONG KONG'S 25 TUBE STATIONS IMMEDIATELY FEELS SAFE. THEY ALL LOOK SAFE, AND IT IS REASSURING TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE SAFE.

FOR A START, THEY ARE SPACIOUS, BRIGHTLY-LIT, AND SO PAINSTAKINGLY MAINTAINED THAT, SIX YEARS DOWN THE LINE, THEY STILL LOOK BRAND NEW. THERE ARE NO BLACK SPOTS, BLIND SPOTS, OR NICHES WHERE ANYONE CAN HIDE. THE SLEEK, AIR-CONDITIONED CARRIAGES ARE OPEN-ENDED, GIVING UNIMPAIRED VISIBILITY FROM ONE END OF THE TRAINS TO THE OTHER. THE STAINLESS STEEL SEATS ARE VANDAL-PROOF.

MOREOVER, THERE ARE NO PUBLIC TOILETS IN THE SYSTEM, NO LEFT-LUGGAGE LOCKERS, AND NO FOOD STALLS WHERE EATING IS ALLOWED. THE KIOSKS ON STATIONS ARE ALL CONSTRUCTED AS SMALL, STANDARD MODULES AND PARKED FLUSH WITH THE WALLS. CLOSE SUPERVISION IS MADE OF THE TYPES OF BUSINESS ALLOWED AND THERE IS A CEILING ON THE AMOUNTS OF CASH THEY ARE PERMITTED TO HOLD AT ANY TIME.

"THERE IS SIMPLY NO REASON FOR ANYONE TO BE HANGING AROUND DOWN THERE," SAID MR CLEMENTS. "THE MTR ENABLES PEOPLE TO GO FROM A TO B AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT'S WHAT THEY DO".

CERTAINLY, THE ATMOSPHERE IS BUSINESSLIKE AND BRISK. THIS, IN ITSELF, HAS LED TO THE BONUS DETECTION OF A TYPE OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE RAILWAY'S OPERATION — ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

LAST YEAR, THE MTR POLICE CAUGHT 56 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA. "MOST WERE CAUGHT TRYING TO PUT MONEY INTO THE AUTOMATIC TURNSTILES, WHICH TAKE ONLY TICKETS," SAID MR CLEMENTS. "THE 11'S LOOK SO OUT OF PLACE AS THEY TRY TO OPERATE THE MODERN MACHINERY. STANDING AMONG HONG KONG'S SOPHISTICATED CROWDS, THEY JUST DON'T FIT."

RESPONSE TIME FOR THE POLICE TO ANY INCIDENT IS AN ALMOST MIRACULOUS 60 SECONDS -- MAXIMUM -- ON A STATION, OR TWO AND A HALF MINUTES IF THE OFFICER HAS TO COME BY TRAIN FROM ANOTHER STATION.

THE COMMANDER GIVES FOUR BASIC REASONS FOR THIS LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE -- THE ORGANISATION OF THE POLICE TERRITORY, COMPUTERISED CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION, AN INDISPENSABLE AND PERVASIVE 'BEAT RADIO' SYSTEM, AND SPECIALISED TRAINING.

HONG KONG'S UNDERGROUND IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT IS THE ONLY SUB-SURFACE RAILWAY IN THE WORLD WHERE THE ENTIRE SYSTEM IS A SINGLE POLICE DISTRICT OF THE REGULAR POLICE FORCE. THIS ENABLES POLICE OPERATIONS TO BE TOTALLY CO-ORDINATED UNDER ONE COMMAND STRUCTURE AND ONE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. THE WHOLE NETWORK OF TUNNELS, TRACKS AND STATIONS IS THEIR OYSTER, THEIR RESPONSIBILITY.

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AT PRESENT, THE STRENGTH OF THE MTR FORCE STANDS AT 200 -- UP TO ONE-SIXTH OF WHOM ARE IN PLAINCLOTHES RIDING THE RAILS.

A FURTHER 140 ARE ABOUT TO BE TAKEN ON FOR THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG ISLAND LINE ON MAY 31.

THE NEW SECTION OF LINE WILL BRING TO THE SYSTEM 12 EAGERLY-AWAITED STATIONS AND A WHOLE RANGE OF NEW STRUCTURAL FEATURES WHICH WILL SOON PUT TO TEST ALL THE ACCUMULATED EXPERTISE OF THE MTR FORCE.

FOR GEOTECHNICAL REASONS, THE ISLAND LINE HAS REQUIRED DEEPER TUNNELLING AND STATION CONFIGURATIONS WHICH ARE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE FAMILIAR PATTERN OF THOSE ON THE EXISTING LINES.

CAUSEWAY BAY, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL HAVE EIGHT LEVELS. WAN CHAI WILL HAVE SIX.

FORTUNATELY, MODERN POLICE INGENUITY AND TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN MANY JUMPS AHEAD OF THE LAW AND ORDER PROBLEMS THIS COULD POSE. CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION IS ALREADY USED EXTENSIVELY THROUGHOUT THE SYSTEM, TO THE EXTENT THAT POLICE ON DUTY IN THE COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRE CAN CUE THE CAMERAS TO SHOW THEM ANY PART, OR ANY LEVEL, OF ANY STATION.

IN ADDITION, POLICE ON BEAT DUTY AT STATIONS (WHERE THERE IS ALWAYS ONE PC) OR ON THE TRAINS, EACH HAVE A WALKIE-TALKIE WITH WHICH THEY KEEP IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THEIR BASE. THANKS TO EARLY INITIATIVE, THE RADIOS ARE EFFECTIVE IN ALL PARTS OF THE SYSTEM -- EVEN ON TRAINS -- DUE TO THE INSTALLATION OF A MASSIVE, LEAKY COAXIAL CABLE DURING TUNNELLING WORK.

AS THE PATROLMEN CALL IN, THE CCC COMPUTER IDENTIFIES AND LOGS THEIR EXACT LOCATION AUTOMATICALLY AND THEIR OBSERVATIONS AND INTENDED MOVEMENTS ARE ENTERED ON VISUAL DISPLAY TERMINALS.

ANYONE THINKING OF COMMITTING A CRIME IN THE UNDERGROUND HAS MUCH TO BE WORRIED ABOUT. CONDITIONS ARE NOT AT ALL CONDUCTIVE TO NEFARIOUS WORK. "THEY DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY ARE BEING WATCHED ON CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV. THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE THE NEAREST PC IS. AND THE MTR IS NOT A GOOD PLACE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO TRY TO ESCAPE FROM WITHOUT BEING CAUGHT," SAID MR CLEMENTS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE UNDERGROUND IS A VERY GOOD PLACE FROM WHICH TO BE EVACUATED, IF NEED BE. --AND IT IS HERE THAT SPECIALIST TRAINING COMES IN.

/POLICE ON .....

POLICE ON TRANSFER FROM SURFACE FORMATIONS MUST FIRST ACCEPT THE IDEA OF DEPTH AS A NEW DIMENSION IN THEIR NORMAL ACTIVITIES. IN HONG KONG'S HIGH-RISE AREAS, POLICE ARE ALREADY WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH VERTICAL BEATS. BUT WHEN THERE IS AN EMERGENCY IN THE MTR TERRITORY, PEOPLE HAVE TO BE RESCUED OR EVACUATED UP.

"THEY ALSO HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT CROWDS ON AN UNDERGROUND ARE IN AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MENTAL STATE TO THOSE ABOVE GROUND AND ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE NERVOUS IF SOMETHING UNUSUAL HAPPENS," SAID MR CLEMENTS.

"IN SUCH CASES, POLICE ARE UNDER ORDERS TO IMMEDIATELY TELL PASSENGERS WHAT IS WRONG," HE SAID. "AS A GENERAL RULE, IF YOU'VE GOT PEOPLE WHO ARE TOLD WHY THEY ARE BEING MOVED AROUND, THEY ARE MUCH EASIER TO MOVE AROUND. THEY DON'T PANIC."

ON AN AVERAGE TRAIN, THIS WILL INVOLVE AROUND 3,000 PEOPLE.

THE POLICE ARE TRAINED TO EVACUATE SUCH NUMBERS FROM ONE STATION LEVEL TO THE NEXT IN ONE AND A HALF MINUTES. SIMILARLY, THEY CAN CLEAR A WHOLE STATION IN FOUR AND A HALF MINUTES.

THE HONG KONG POLICE ARE COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING THEIR FIRM CONTROL OVER LAW AND ORDER, WHETHER IT IS ABOVE OR BELOW THE GROUND SURFACE.

THAT'S WHY ITS QUITE SAFE TO SAY THAT, WHEN IT COMES TO HONG KONG'S UNDERGROUND, POLICING IS GOING RIGHT 'DOWN THE TUBES' — IN A MOST DETERMINED AND POSITIVE WAY.