



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVT FULLY AWARE OF IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH

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THE GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF THE PROFOUND IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH TO THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AND RECOGNISES THAT THEY DESERVE SPECIAL CARE AND ATTENTION, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WINDING UP DEBATE ON THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY, MR LIAO SAID THE YOUTH PROBLEM IN HONG KONG WAS NO WORSE THAN THAT IN OTHER COUNTRIES, AND MOST YOUNG PEOPLE GREW UP WITHOUT ANY EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD DEVELOPED A FINE TRADITION OF PROVIDING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES.

THE GOVERNMENT, ON ITS PART, SOUGHT TO CULTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE ON TWO LEVELS.

ON A GENERAL LEVEL, THERE WAS THE COMMUNITY BUILDING STRATEGY WHICH AIMED AT FOSTERING AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE A SENSE OF BELONGING, MUTUAL CARE AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY.

THESE OBJECTIVES WERE PROMOTED THROUGH PURPOSE-BUILT FACILITIES, SUCH AS COMMUNITY CENTRES, FORMATION OF RESIDENTS' ORGANISATIONS, AND CAMPAIGNS TO FIGHT CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND TO KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN.

ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE *SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME AND THE COMMONWEALTH EXCHANGE SCHEME WERE ALSO DESIGNED TO MEET THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

ON A FUNCTIONAL LEVEL, THERE WERE GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND RELATED SERVICES IN AREAS SUCH AS EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, RECREATION AND CULTURE, AND REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING, TO MEET THE BASIC NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

MR LIAO NOTED THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL BUDGET IN 1987-88, NEARLY 20 PER CENT WAS SPENT ON EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, \$270 MILLION FOR WELFARE SERVICES FOR YOUTH, AND \$800 MILLION ON RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES.

FURTHERMORE, A CONSIDERABLE PROPORTION OF SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WAS ALSO PROVIDED BY THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR.

/MR LIAO

MR LIAO SHARED MEMBERS' VIEWS ON THE NEED FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING, AND POINTED OUT THAT SUCH TRAINING WAS BEING PROVIDED BY A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR, BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS.

"IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO FURTHER DEVELOP SUCH TRAINING PROGRAMMES TO IMPART THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES NECESSARY TO PREPARE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THEIR FUTURE AND INCREASE THEIR AWARENESS OF THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES," HE NOTED.

REFERRING TO EFFORTS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH TO SEEK VIEWS AND COMMENTS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES ON ITS REPORT, MR LIAO SAID HE WAS SURE THE VIEWS RAISED BY MEMBERS DURING TODAY'S DEBATE WOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE.

AFTER MR LIAO'S SPEECH, THE COUNCIL VOTED IN FAVOUR OF THE MOTION BEING DEBATED - THAT THE COUNCIL TAKE NOTE OF THE REPORT.

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ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE TO GOOD DEVELOPMENT PROMOTED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS RECOGNISED THAT IT SHOULD PROMOTE AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE TO THE PROPER DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND ALSO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SERVICES FOR THOSE WITH PARTICULAR NEEDS OR PROBLEMS.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DURING THE DEBATE ON THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY.

OUTLINING THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO YOUNGSTERS, MR CHAMBERS SAID : "THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER TO PROMOTE RESPECT FOR, AND COHESION WITHIN, THE FAMILY THROUGH FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES.

"THEY ALSO WORK TOGETHER TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR CHARACTER, PERSONALITY, LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL SKILLS THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN A WIDE RANGE OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES."

THESE ACTIVITIES, MAINLY ORGANISED BY THE 281 SUBVENTED CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CENTRES, WERE VERY POPULAR WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND A FURTHER 171 CENTRES SHOULD BE SET UP DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, HE SAID.

/"THERE ARE

"THERE ARE ALSO A NUMBER OF UNIFORMED YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS THE SCOUTS AND GUIDES WHICH ARE SPECIFICALLY INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND SENSE OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY," MR CHAMBERS CONTINUED.

"IN ADDITION, SOCIAL WORKERS WORKING AT DISTRICT LEVEL PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF SMALLER INDEPENDENT YOUTH GROUPS."

ON THE NEED TO HELP STUDENTS WITH SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT UNDER THE SUBVENTED SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMME OPERATED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS WERE SERVED BY SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS AT A RATIO OF ONE SOCIAL WORKER FOR EVERY 3,000 STUDENTS.

THIS RATIO WAS IMPROVED RECENTLY, AND A FURTHER REVIEW WOULD TAKE PLACE LATER THIS YEAR.

FOR THOSE YOUTHS WHO COULD NOT BE REACHED BY SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS, MR CHAMBERS SAID A NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES PROVIDED AN OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORK SERVICE.

AT PRESENT, THERE WERE 18 OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORK TEAMS WHICH OPERATED IN AREAS WHICH SUCH YOUNG PEOPLE WERE KNOWN TO FREQUENT.

"THESE TEAMS IDENTIFY AND MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH YOUTH WHO ARE IN NEED OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING OR OTHER SOCIAL WORK SERVICES," MR CHAMBERS SAID.

"THE OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORK SERVICE HAS ACHIEVED ENCOURAGING RESULTS AND IT IS INTENDED THAT IT SHOULD BE EXPANDED THROUGH THE ADDITION OF SIX MORE TEAMS DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS."

TURNING TO YOUNG OFFENDERS, MR CHAMBERS SAID IN CASES OF MINOR OFFENCES WHERE A PROBATION OFFICER CONSIDERED RESIDENTIAL TRAINING INAPPROPRIATE, AN OFFENDER WAS OFTEN PLACED ON A NON-RESIDENTIAL PROBATION ORDER AND REQUIRED TO UNDERGO COUNSELLING AND ANY OTHER SPECIAL TREATMENT CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

"ALTERNATIVELY, A COURT MAY MAKE A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER WHICH REQUIRES THE OFFENDER TO PERFORM UNPAID WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

UNDER A TWO-YEAR PILOT SCHEME IN THREE MAGISTRACIES, THE COMMUNITY ORDER APPROACH WOULD BE ASSESSED WHEN THE PILOT SCHEME WAS COMPLETED AND A DECISION TAKEN WHETHER TO EXTEND THE ARRANGEMENTS TO ALL MAGISTRACIES.

"SO FAR THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS SCHEME IS PROVING QUITE SUCCESSFUL, AND IS BEING WELL USED BY THE COURTS," HE NOTED.

/FOR MORE

FOR MORE SERIOUS OFFENCES, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE COURT MIGHT DECIDE THAT A YOUNG PERSON SHOULD BE PLACED IN A RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTION SUCH AS A REMAND HOME OR A REFORMATORY SCHOOL.

"THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY OPERATES SEVEN OF THESE INSTITUTIONS EACH OF WHICH PROVIDES A DISCIPLINED AND CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT WHERE OFFENDERS CAN RECEIVE ACADEMIC, PREVOCATIONAL AND SOCIAL TRAINING," HE SAID.

"AFTERCARE SERVICES, INCLUDING COUNSELLING, FAMILY VISITS AND ASSISTANCE WITH ACCOMMODATION, JOB AND SCHOOL PLACEMENTS, ARE PROVIDED FOR ALL YOUNG OFFENDERS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS."

WHILST THERE WAS SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF PLACES IN RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS TO MEET THE PRESENT DEMAND, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE DEPARTMENT PLANNED TO PROVIDE A NEW HOME FOR GIRLS IN TUEN MUN AND TO REPROVISION TWO OF THE BOY'S HOMES.

"I HOPE I HAVE SAID ENOUGH TO REASSURE MEMBERS THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE SUBVENTED WELFARE AGENCIES PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF SOCIAL WORK BASED SERVICES TO HELP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE GROW UP INTO RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND TO PROVIDE HELP FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS," MR CHAMBERS SAID.

"THESE SERVICES ARE CO-ORDINATED THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIVE-YEAR PLAN, WHICH IS REVIEWED AT REGULAR INTERVALS IN COLLABORATION WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES THROUGH THE COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE."

POINTING TO THE WRONG IMPRESSION THAT STRAY YOUTHS WERE REPRESENTATIVE OF HONG KONG'S YOUTH, MR CHAMBERS SAID HE BELIEVED MOST OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WERE PREPARED TO STUDY AND WORK HARD AND TO BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY, AND THIS MUST BE A GOOD AUGURY FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

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IMPORTANCE OF MORAL EDUCATION RECOGNISED

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THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF MORAL EDUCATION AND THE GENERAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM HAD BEEN REVISED TO REFLECT GREATER AWARENESS OF THE KEY IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT IN 1981 THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ISSUED GENERAL GUIDELINES ON MORAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PREPARED REFERENCE MATERIALS ON MORAL EDUCATION AND CIRCULATED THEM TO SCHOOLS.

AMONG OTHER ACTIVITIES, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ORGANISED AN EXHIBITION ON MORAL EDUCATION EVERY TWO YEARS.

"THIS YEAR'S EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD IN JULY AND WILL BE ON THE THEME 'CARING AND SHARING'," HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE URGED PARENTS TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO HELP THE MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CHILDREN.

TURNING TO SCHOOL GUIDANCE WORK, HE SAID THIS WAS AN AREA WHERE ENCOURAGING PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE.

"TO PROVIDE FOR THIS NEED, WE HAVE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL TEACHING POSTS IN ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS SINCE 1982," HE SAID.

"IN 1986 WE ISSUED A SUGGESTED GUIDE ON GUIDANCE WORK, ON WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED EXTENSIVE FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOLS.

"WE CONDUCT TRAINING COURSES FOR GUIDANCE TEACHERS, AND IN OCTOBER 1986 WE STARTED A TWO-YEAR PILOT SCHEME TO STRENGTHEN THE PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO THEM."

AS TO THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW COURSES AND PROGRAMMES IN SCHOOLS, MR BRIDGE SAID, AS A GENERAL RULE, ANY INNOVATION WAS FIRST TESTED AS A PILOT PROJECT IN SELECTED SCHOOLS.

IT WAS THEN EVALUATED AND MODIFIED AS NECESSARY BEFORE BEING OFFERED FOR ADOPTION IN ALL SCHOOLS.

HE CITED THE PROGRAMME, "ON BEING A PARENT", AS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS, ALTHOUGH THIS PARTICULAR PROGRAMME WAS REMARKABLE IN THAT IT ORIGINATED FROM THE ENTHUSIASM OF A FEW COMMITTED INDIVIDUALS RATHER THAN THROUGH THE NORMAL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

/THE PROGRAMME

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THE PROGRAMME WAS BEING RUN BY EIGHT PROFESSIONALS IN RELEVANT FIELDS WHO SHARED A CONVICTION CONCERNING THE NEED OF PROPER AND TIMELY PARENT EDUCATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

"THREE YEARS AGO THEY POOLED THEIR EXPERTISE AND STARTED TO WORK, IN THEIR OWN SPARE TIME, AND USING THEIR OWN RESOURCES, ON A PARENT EDUCATION CURRICULUM," HE SAID.

"TWO YEARS AGO THEY SECURED THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

"THIS ENABLED THEM TO INITIATE A PILOT PROJECT IN SEVEN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

"ONCE THE PILOT SCHEME HAS BEEN COMPLETED, WE SHALL HAVE A TRIED AND TESTED BODY OF MATERIALS AND IDEAS WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL TEACHERS IN JUNIOR SECONDARY CLASSES."

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114 YOUTH ENCOURAGED TO PLAY MEANINGFUL ROLE
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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IS SOMETHING WHICH ALL SOCIETIES FACE IN VARYING DEGREES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY, MR BARNES SAID THAT JUVENILE DELINQUENCY SEEMED TO PREVAIL PARTICULARLY IN INTENSE URBAN SETTINGS.

"A LACK OF GUIDANCE, OPPORTUNITY OR FACILITIES PRODUCES CONDITIONS IN WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE FALL BACK UPON THEIR OWN RESOURCES WHICH MAY BE OFTEN MEAGRE, AND SOME WILL INEVITABLY GRAVITATE TOWARDS CRIME AND TOWARDS GANG AND TRIAD INVOLVEMENT," HE EXPLAINED.

"IT IS UNFORTUNATELY A FACT THAT JUVENILE CRIME IN THE SEVEN TO 15 YEARS AGE GROUP IN HONG KONG ROSE BY 64 PER CENT BETWEEN 1983 AND 1987, ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY YOUNG OFFENDERS AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 20 DROPPED BY SIX PER CENT.

"SHOP THEFTS AND MISCELLANEOUS THEFTS AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS WERE THE MAIN OFFENCES, A LARGE PROPORTION OF WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE NEW TOWNS."

/MR BARNES

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MR BARNES SAID THAT IN HIS OWN POLICY AREA THE RESPONSE BY THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN IN TWO DIRECTIONS.

"FIRST, TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO PLAY A MEANINGFUL PART IN THE COMMUNITY, AND THEREBY TO HELP THEM TO STEER CLEAR OF DELINQUENCY, BY MEANS OF SCHEMES AND ORGANISATIONS WHICH ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN ABILITIES AND CHARACTER, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME OFFERING A VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

"AMONG THESE I WOULD INCLUDE THE CADET SCHEMES OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES, THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL AND THE JUNIOR LEADERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT.

"THOUGHT IS ALSO BEING GIVEN TO THE INTRODUCTION OF A CADET SCHEME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WISHING TO SERVE IN THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES."

THE SECOND MODE OF RESPONSE, MR BARNES SAID, HAD BEEN THROUGH THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND ITS STANDING COMMITTEE ON YOUNG OFFENDERS, AND RESEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE.

"THESE MEET REGULARLY TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS RELATING TO JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, AND HAVE IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF FURTHER MEASURES TO BE INTRODUCED THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

"THESE INCLUDE A SCHEME OF RENUNCIATION OF TRIAD MEMBERSHIP; A PACKAGE OF TEACHING MATERIALS FOR USE IN SCHOOLS WARNING STUDENTS OF THE DANGERS OF TRIAD INVOLVEMENT; AND EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS WARNING AGAINST INVOLVEMENT WITH TRIADS AND DISCOURAGING SHOP THEFT."

MR BARNES STRESSED THAT THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WAS KEEN TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE MEASURES WHICH IT HAD ADOPTED AND WELCOMED ANY SUGGESTIONS ON WAYS TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THESE MEASURES, AT BEST, CONSTITUTED BUT ONE FACET OF A MANY-SIDED SUBJECT ON WHICH MEMBERS HAD SPOKEN.

"IF, AS A RESULT OF THESE DELIBERATIONS AND CONSULTATION ON THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY, THERE EMERGES A GREATER DEGREE OF BENEFIT FOR THE YOUTH OF HONG KONG IT WILL BE TIME AND EFFORT WELL SPENT," HE ADDED.

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STRONG ACTION AGAINST UNSCRUPULOUS MERCHANTS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST VENDORS OF VIOLENT AND SEXUALLY EXPLICIT COMIC BOOKS WHICH ARE CAUSING HARM TO YOUNGSTERS.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON ELAINE CHUNG, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DURING THE DEBATE ON THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY.

MISS CHUNG SAID: "WE SHALL CONTINUE TO REFER OFFENSIVE MATERIAL TO THE OBSCENE ARTICLES TRIBUNAL WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

"WE SHALL ALSO BE APPEALING TO DISTRICT BOARDS, SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AND OUTREACH SOCIAL WORKERS FOR ASSISTANCE."

TURNING TO TELEVISION, MISS CHUNG SAID THE NEED FOR TELEVISION STATIONS TO PROVIDE BALANCED PROGRAMMES WAS WELL RECOGNISED BY THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY.

"THE NEW LICENSE CONDITIONS FOR THE TELEVISION STATIONS NOW BEING DRAFTED WILL MAKE CLEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE A PROPER BALANCE OF INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES WITH DUE IMPARTIALITY AND ACCURACY, AND TO AVOID OFFENCE TO GOOD TASTE AND DECENCY," SHE SAID.

"IT IS EXPECTED THAT WHEN CABLE TELEVISION IS INTRODUCED, PROVISION WILL BE MADE FOR MORE SPECIALISED PROGRAMMES FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN."

AT PRESENT, THE TELEVISION STATIONS BROADCAST A TOTAL OF 77 HOURS OF CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMES EACH WEEK -- FROM 13 PER CENT TO 20 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL BROADCAST TIME ON EACH CHANNEL.

IN ADDITION, FOUR HOURS OF EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION WERE BROADCAST PER DAY, MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS, WHILE SCHOOLS WERE IN SESSION.

MISS CHUNG NOTED THAT A MEMBER MENTIONED THE CONFUSION OF SOCIAL VALUES AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE AND ATTRIBUTED THIS PARTLY TO THE INFLUENCE OF UNREAL CHARACTERISATION ON TELEVISION.

"GUIDELINES ARE SET OUT BY GOVERNMENT ON WHAT IS CONSIDERED SUITABLE FOR BROADCAST AND PROGRAMMERS ARE ASKED TO EXERCISE VIGILANCE IN THE SCHEDULING OF PROGRAMMES ESPECIALLY DURING FAMILY VIEWING HOURS," SHE SAID.

"WHILE WE WOULD WISH TO IMPART IDEALS OF WHAT THE WORLD SHOULD BE, OUR CHILDREN SHOULD ALSO KNOW WHAT THE REAL WORLD IS LIKE," SHE SAID.

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OBJECTIVES OF YOUTH POLICY OUTLINED

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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT NOT ONLY ENHANCES THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY, BUT HAS THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF HELPING INDIVIDUALS TO DEVELOP AS SOCIAL BEINGS, THE HON ROSANNA TAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS TAM WAS MOVING A MOTION THAT THE COUNCIL TAKE NOTE OF THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY - COMPILED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH OF WHICH SHE WAS CHAIRMAN.

IN LEADING OFF THE DEBATE, SHE NOTED THAT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT HAD BECOME A SUBJECT OF WIDESPREAD CONCERN AS HONG KONG STROVE TO MAINTAIN STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IN THE RUN-UP TO 1997.

SHE SAID THAT, VIEWED IN THIS PERSPECTIVE AS AN OBJECTIVE NECESSITY, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COULD BE SEEN AS WAS SIMPLY A MEANS OR TACTIC TO SOME SOCIAL OR POLITICAL ENDS.

"WHEN IT HAPPENS THAT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FAILS TO GIVE THE DESIRED RESULTS IN ATTAINING ITS INTENDED GOAL, OR WHEN IT IS FOUND THAT SOME OTHER MEANS WERE MORE EFFECTIVE FOR THE PURPOSE, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WILL LOSE ITS FOCUS BECAUSE IT HAS LOST ITS PRACTICAL VALUE," SHE SAID.

THUS, EFFORTS IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE PROMOTED CONTINUALLY BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY.

IN THE PAST THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE CERTAIN EFFORTS AND PROGRESS IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, BUT YOUTH SERVICES HAD SUFFERED FROM A LACK OF POSITIVE PLANNING AND DEFINITE DIRECTION, WITH MORE EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE PREVENTION OF YOUTH PROBLEMS THAN ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S POTENTIAL.

FURTHERMORE, SHE SAID POOR CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS HAD RESULTED IN THE PROVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES OVERLAPPING OR BEING SHORTSIGHTED AND UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED.

MRS TAM SAID THAT THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY BASICALLY AFFIRMED THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD HAVE AN EXPLICIT STAND ON THE EXPECTATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

MOREOVER, THE GOVERNMENT HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY TO SPELL OUT ITS COMMITMENT TOWARDS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, IN PROVIDING A DIRECTION AND OBJECTIVES FOR OVERALL YOUTH SERVICES AND IN ENSURING THAT THESE OBJECTIVES COULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH BETTER ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AND BETTER CO-ORDINATION.

/SHE SAID

SHE SAID THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH HAD PLACED GREAT EMPHASIS ON THE INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY.

THE COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED FIVE POINTS OF ACTION:

- * TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE URBANISED ENVIRONMENT TO MAINTAIN GOOD MENTAL HEALTH;
- * TO ENHANCE THEIR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL AWARENESS AS WELL AS POLITICAL PARTICIPATION;
- * TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO BROADEN THEIR OUTLOOK AND DEVELOP AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE;
- * TO PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR EDUCATION;
- * TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE GROWTH OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

MRS TAM SAID THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION HAD ALSO BEEN GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN COMPREHENSIVENESS AND FLEXIBILITY IN YOUTH POLICY.

"TO STRIKE A BALANCE, THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THE FOCAL POINT SHOULD BE TO PROVIDE A CLEAR OBJECTIVE AND A DEFINITE DIRECTION FOR YOUTH SERVICES," SHE SAID.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT ISSUE, MRS TAM SAID, WAS HOW TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE PROMOTION EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENT BODIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

HONG KONG WAS A LIBERAL SOCIETY WHERE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS MADE CONCERTED EFFORTS IN PROVIDING AND PROMOTING YOUTH SERVICES, AND THIS FORM OF PARTNERSHIP SHOULD NOT BE TAMPERED WITH ON PROMULGATION OF A YOUTH POLICY.

"THE PROPOSED YOUTH POLICY SHOULD NOT BE A KIND THAT LISTS DIRECTIVES; INSTEAD IT SHOULD BE A SET OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT," MRS TAM SAID.

SHE ALSO SAID THAT THE KEY TO GAINING SUPPORT FROM BOTH NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED LAY IN THE EFFORTS TO ALLOW NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS, AND TO PROVIDE THESE ORGANISATIONS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AGREED POLICY.

MRS TAM SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE 1997 FACTOR IN FORMULATION OF YOUTH POLICY.

/SHE SAID

SHE SAID THAT 1997 SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IMPACT AND CHALLENGES RESULTING FROM A CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL FUTURE WERE NOT THE ONLY FACTORS INVOLVED WHEN IT CAME TO THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

"HENCE, THE COMMITTEE, IN DRAFTING THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY, HAD TRIED ITS BEST NOT TO PLAY DOWN OR EXAGGERATE THE 1997 FACTOR WITH A VIEW TO FINDING A PROPER COURSE AS WELL AS A COMPREHENSIVE OBJECTIVE," SHE ADDED.

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YOUTH MUST BE ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR FUTURE

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FULL SUPPORT FOR THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON YOUTH THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD FORMULATE A YOUTH POLICY AND SET UP A COMMISSION ON YOUTH WAS GIVEN BY THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE DEBATE ON THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY, MR CHEONG SAID THE DEBATE WAS TIMELY BECAUSE IT HELPED TO REFOCUS ATTENTION ON AN ISSUE THAT HAD A CRUCIAL BEARING ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG - THE FUTURE OF YOUTH.

"IT DAUNTS ME THAT IF OUR YOUTHS ARE NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED TO MEET FUTURE CHALLENGES WE WILL NOT HAVE A FUTURE," HE SAID.

THROUGH THE HARD WORK OF THE COMMUNITY COUPLED WITH SOME LUCK, HONG KONG HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY AFFLUENT.

CHILDREN NOW HAD A MUCH COZIER ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO GROW UP, AND THEY WERE GENERALLY MORE PAMPERED THAN THEIR FOREFATHERS.

AT SCHOOL, THEY WERE ENJOYING THE FRUITS OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM WHICH RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY WORKED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE LESS COMPETITIVE PRESSURE THERE WAS ON CHILDREN THE BETTER.

FURTHER, ADVANCEMENT IN MASS MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES HAD PRESENTED CHILDREN WITH MORE DISTRACTIONS FROM THEIR LEARNING PROCESS.

A COMBINATION OF ALL THESE FACTORS HAD HELPED TO TAME SOMEWHAT THE HARD WORKING SPIRIT OF YOUTH, HE SAID.

/MR CHEONG

MR CHEONG ALSO NOTED THAT ADVANCEMENT IN TECHNOLOGY WOULD BRING THE WORLD CLOSER TOGETHER. AS A RESULT, HONG KONG WOULD FACE MUCH STRONGER COMPETITION FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES OF THE WORLD IN THE QUEST FOR FURTHER ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT.

HE SAID THAT HONG KONG'S YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE THE PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY TOMORROW WOULD HAVE TO BEAR THE BLUNT OF THAT COMPETITION.

IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT INDEED TO MAINTAIN ECONOMIC WELL-BEING WITHOUT PUTTING IN THE NECESSARY AMOUNT OF HARD WORK.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO SUSTAIN THE KIND OF ECONOMIC BENEFITS THEY HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO, THEY WOULD NEED TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS NECESSARY FOR HANDLING TOUGH AND DIFFICULT SITUATIONS.

"OUR FUTURE ECONOMIC SUCCESS WILL BE VERY MUCH DEPENDENT UPON THE ABILITY OF OUR COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE TO APPRECIATE AND ACCEPT THE VALUE OF HARD WORK," HE SAID.

MR CHEONG SAID THAT YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD THEREFORE BE PROVIDED WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN PROGRAMMES DESIGNED TO MAKE THEM APPRECIATE THE BENEFITS OF HARD WORK, TEAM WORK AND COLLECTIVE WISDOM.

THIS WAS AN AREA WHERE PROGRAMMES SPONSORED BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MOST MEANINGFUL, HE ADDED.

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TV PRODUCTIONS FAIL IN KEY FUNCTIONS

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THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG STAND TO LOSE A GREAT DEAL BECUASE LOCAL TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS, EXCEPT THOSE MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT, HAVE FAILED MISERABLY IN LIVING UP TO THE TWO KEY FUNCTIONS OF TO INFORM AND TO EDUCATE.

THIS CRITICISM WAS MADE BY THE HON SELINA CHOW TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE DEBATE ON THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY.

SHE NOTED THAT PRODUCERS ARGUED THAT ART HAD TO REFLECT REAL LIFE, SO IF IN REAL LIFE YOUNG PEOPLE BEHAVED IMMORALLY, TALKED BADLY, ACTED AND REACTED VIOLENTLY AND SO ON, ALL THESE WERE TRUTHFULLY AND REALISTICALLY PORTRAYED EVERY DAY ON TELEVISION.

/ "PARADOXICALLY, DRAMATIC

"PARADOXICALLY, DRAMATIC LICENCE IS STRETCHED BEYOND THE LIMIT OF PROPRIETY IN SCENES BLATANTLY CONTRARY TO PRACTICES AND CONVENTIONS OF DIFFERENT TRADES, INDUSTRIES AND PROFESSIONS IN REAL LIFE," SHE SAID.

THE FINALE OF A RECENT CONTROVERSIAL DRAMA SERIAL DEPICTING A COURTROOM SCENE WAS THE SUBJECT OF SERIOUS CRITICISM AND RIDICULE IN THE LEGAL AND JUDICIAL CIRCLES, BUT WAS AT THE SAME TIME APPLAUDED BY A GREAT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE WHO SAID THEY WERE DEEPLY TOUCHED BY ITS REALISM, SHE NOTED.

"WILL THESE YOUNG PEOPLE EVER KNOW THAT WHAT THEY SAW COULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED IN A COURTROOM IN HONG KONG?" SHE QUESTIONED.

SHE SAID THAT MANY OF COURSE WOULD LOOK TO THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY TO ACT AS THE EFFECTIVE MONITOR.

ALTHOUGH SHE HAD EVERY CONFIDENCE IN THE AUTHORITY, SHE MAINTAINED THAT IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEDIA TO SET ITS OWN STANDARDS, AND ANY EXTERNAL REGULATION SHOULD ONLY BE A SAFETY NET.

"I WOULD THEREFORE CALL ON OUR OTHERWISE VERY SUCCESSFUL MEDIA TO RECTIFY THIS RATHER UNSATISFACTORY ASPECT UNDER ITS DIRECT CONTROL," SHE SAID.

TURNING TO THE PROPOSED COMMISSION ON YOUTH, MRS CHOW SAID SUCH A BODY WAS OF COURSE QUITE NECESSARY TO SPEARHEAD THOUGHT AND ACTION RELATED TO THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A YOUTH POLICY.

SHE WAS HOWEVER CONCERNED THAT LITTLE EMPHASIS WAS GIVEN TO THE IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT THIS COMMISSION MUST PROVIDE.

SHE ADDED THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY AREAS IN THE YOUTH POLICY MUST BE TO FIND A WAY TO TEACH YOUNG PEOPLE, NOT SO MUCH WHAT TO THINK BUT HOW TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES AND OTHERS, BY BEING KNOWLEDGEABLE, OBJECTIVE, LOGICAL AND RATIONAL.

YOUTHS WITH LEADERSHIP QUALITIES MUST BE RECOGNISED AND GIVEN FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES OF TRAINING AND EXPOSURE.

"AFTER ALL, THEY, NOT WE, WILL BE THE PILLARS OF A HONG KONG WHICH NEEDS TO BE EVEN MORE SELF-RELIANT THAN TODAY," SHE SAID.

EARLY ACTION ON YOUTH COMMISSION URGED

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THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SET UP AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE A COMMISSION ON YOUTH TO FORMULATE, REVIEW AND UPDATE A YOUTH POLICY.

THIS CALL WAS MADE BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DURING THE DEBATE ON THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY.

DR IP ALSO SUGGESTED THAT A STUDY OF THE MORAL ATTITUDES OF YOUNG PEOPLE BE CONDUCTED AND THAT MORAL EDUCATION COULD BE STRENGTHENED WITHIN THE FAMILY AND THE SCHOOL.

SHE SAID A STUDY SHOULD BE MADE INTO THE RISK FACTORS GIVING RISE TO YOUTH PROBLEMS SO THAT AN EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF THESE PROBLEMS AND INTENSIVE COUNSELLING COULD AVOID THE NEED FOR PROSECUTION AND REHABILITATION.

DR IP SAID THE NORMAL STANDARDS FOR ASSESSING PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DEVELOPMENT OF ADOLESCENTS IN HONG KONG WERE LACKING.

"THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY SHOULD BE GIVEN SUPPORT IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO APPLY FOR A RESEARCH GRANT TO STUDY THE SAME," SHE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, WITH THE INCREASING ADMISSION OF ADOLESCENTS INTO HOSPITAL CHILDREN'S WARDS, ADOLESCENT MEDICINE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AS A SPECIALTY UNDER PAEDIATRICS, SHE SUGGESTED.

SHE SAID THAT PHYSICAL RECREATION IN THE FORM OF SPORTS WAS VITAL FOR YOUTH AND SHOULD BE ACTIVELY PROMOTED.

"NOT ONLY DOES IT BENEFIT HEALTH, IT IS ALSO A USEFUL CHANNEL FOR DIVERTING EXCESS ENERGY, SO ABUNDANT IN YOUTH, TO A USEFUL CAUSE," SHE SAID.

SHE ADDED THAT PARENTS OF TODAY'S YOUTH HAD GROWN UP IN A SIMPLER ENVIRONMENT AND OFTEN FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THE DEMANDS FACED BY MODERN YOUTH.

"A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP SHOULD BE ORGANISED TO EDUCATE PARENTS AND WORKERS WITH YOUTH ON THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT, THEIR NEEDS, PROBLEMS AND MANAGEMENT," SHE SAID.

DR IP NOTED THAT THE HONG KONG CHILD HEALTH FOUNDATION HAD PROVISIONALLY SCHEDULED TO DO THIS IN NOVEMBER.

SHE ADDED THAT IT WAS OFTEN THOSE LESS EDUCATED YOUNG PEOPLE WHO, COUPLED WITH NEGLECT BY THEIR POOR AND BROKEN FAMILIES, AND SEEING LITTLE FUTURE AHEAD FOR THEMSELVES, ENTERED THE WORLD OF CRIME AND PROSTITUTION TO SATISFY THEIR OWN MATERIAL NEEDS.

IT WAS THIS GROUP OF YOUTH FOR WHICH SPECIAL EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE, TO OFFER THEM A BRIGHT FUTURE WITH VOCATIONAL, TECHNICAL TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIP.

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QUALITIES YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD POSSESS

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HONG KONG'S YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO WILL BE THE FUTURE LEADERS OF THE TERRITORY, SHOULD HAVE BROAD KNOWLEDGE, DARE TO SPEAK UP, BE WILLING TO WORK HARD AND HAVE GOOD JUDGMENT, THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR YEUNG WAS SPEAKING DURING THE DEBATE ON THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY.

HE SAID THAT ONLY WHEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY IN FUTURE HAD THE CLARITY OF MIND, HAD THE ABILITY TO DISTINGUISH RIGHT FROM WRONG AND HAD A HIGH LEVEL OF CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS COULD THERE BE HOPE THAT THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG WOULD ENSURE TRUE DEMOCRACY FOR THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THAT YOUNG PEOPLE, IN PARTICULAR YOUNG INTELLECTUALS, WERE THE BACKBONE AND THE DRIVING FORCE OF THE COMMUNITY.

THEY WERE PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY AND WHAT THEY DID AND WHAT THEY CONTRIBUTED WOULD HAVE A FAR-REACHING AND SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF THE ENTIRE TERRITORY.

MR YEUNG SUGGESTED THAT TO IMPROVE SOCIETY A START MUST BE MADE WITH EDUCATION.

"WE SHOULD PROVIDE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AN EDUCATION THAT CAN DEVELOP THEIR PERSONAL ABILITIES AS WELL AS FOSTER A SENSE OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY," HE SAID.

IT SHOULD BE AN EDUCATION AIMED AT MAKING THE STUDENTS REALISE WHAT PROBLEMS THE COMMUNITY WAS CONFRONTING AND CULTIVATING AMONG THEM A RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE IN DEALING WITH THESE PROBLEMS.

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WIDER PERSPECTIVE IN EDUCATION SYSTEM ADVOCATED

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THE EDUCATION SYSTEM SHOULD HAVE A WIDER PERSPECTIVE, AND AIM TO DEVELOP THE POTENTIAL OF YOUTH NOT ONLY IN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, BUT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND THE CULTIVATION OF MORAL VALUES AND ATTITUDES.

THE HON EDWARD HO SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DURING THE DEBATE ON THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY.

/MR HO

MR HO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTS' EARLY INFLUENCE ON CHILDREN, AND SAID MOST OF TODAY'S PROBLEMS WITH YOUTH COULD BE TRACED BACK TO A FAMILY ENVIRONMENT WHICH HAD BEEN HOSTILE.

"MANY PROBLEM YOUTHS EITHER COME FROM BROKEN HOMES, OR HAVE PARENTS WHO WOULD NOT OR COULD NOT PROVIDE THEM WITH THE VERY ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF LOVE AND CARE," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, PARENTS WERE NOT THE ONLY ONES TO BE BLAMED. MR HO SAID THAT A CHILD BY THE AGE OF FIVE WOULD HAVE EMERGED FROM THE SHELTER OF HIS HOME AND ENTERED THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE SCHOOL, AND SPENT MORE OF HIS WAKING HOURS WITH HIS TEACHERS AND HIS PEERS.

"THE SCHOOL HAS IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE TAKEN OVER HIS TRAINING FROM HIS PARENTS. IRRESPECTIVE OF HIS FAMILY BACKGROUND, HIS ABILITIES AND POTENTIALS, HIS EDUCATION WILL BE AN EXTREMELY STRUCTURED ONE WHICH WILL CONFORM TO OTHERS OF HIS AGE," MR HO SAID.

"HE WILL BE CONSTANTLY GRADED BY HIS TEACHERS SO THAT HIS VALUE OF SUCCESS IS HOW WELL HE FARES IN HIS CLASS IN TERMS OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS."

MR HO SAID THE PRESSURE OF SCHOOL WORK ON YOUTH IN HONG KONG WAS WELL-KNOWN BUT HARD WORK WAS NOT NECESSARILY A BAD THING IF THERE WAS MORE IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM PROVIDING FOR ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT.

"APART FROM THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE, THEY MUST BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE EQUIPPED WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE AND VALUES TO BECOME WELL-ADJUSTED AND USEFUL CITIZENS IN OUR COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

MR HO SAID EVEN THOUGH THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY INDICATED THERE WERE NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL SORTS OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR SOCIAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES, SADLY, NOT MANY YOUTHS ACTUALLY TOOK PART OR CONSIDERED THEM WORTHWHILE ACTIVITIES.

THIS WAS BECAUSE SUCH ACTIVITIES DID NOT CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO WHAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE BELIEVED TO BE CRITERIA FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

AS FOR PARENTS WHO WERE GUILTY OF NEGLECTING THEIR CHILDREN, MR HO SAID THEY COULD BE HELPED BY FAMILY-LIFE EDUCATION CLASSES SPONSORED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS. BUT THEN THE PARENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THESE ACTIVITIES WERE BY DEFINITION THE MOTIVATED ONES.

/NOTING THAT

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NOTING THAT A TEAM OF EXPERTS IN CURRICULUM FOR TEACHING FORM 1 TO FORM 3 STUDENTS HAD RECENTLY SPONSORED A WORTHWHILE PILOT SCHEME ON "BECOMING A PARENT", MR HO HOPED THAT THEIR EXPERIENCE WOULD EVENTUALLY BENEFIT NOT ONLY THE STUDENTS INVOLVED BUT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE PROPOSED COMMISSION ON YOUTH WOULD SERVE TO CO-ORDINATE AND TO OPTIMISE THESE DIVERSE ACTIVITIES IN THE MOST PRODUCTIVE MANNER FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOUTH -- THE COMMUNITY'S MOST VALUABLE ASSET.

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EQUIP YOUTH TO BECOME FUTURE LEADERS

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THE OVER-RIDING PRINCIPLE OF HONG KONG'S YOUTH POLICY OUGHT TO BE TO EQUIP YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME FUTURE LEADERS, IN THIS TRANSITIONAL PERIOD OF THE TERRITORY'S HISTORY, THE HON HUI YIN-FAT SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR HUI SAID THAT WHILE SOCIAL POLICIES INCLUDED YOUTH AMONG SOCIAL SERVICES TARGETS, NONE OF THESE POLICIES WAS GEARED TOWARDS MEETING THE EVER-CHANGING NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF YOUTH.

"AT A TIME WHEN A QUARTER OF OUR POPULATION ARE UNDERGOING A CRITICAL PERIOD IN THEIR LIVES, SEARCHING FOR WORKING SKILLS, MORAL VALUES AND SELF IDENTITY, OUR SOCIETY HAS PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO THEIR PROBLEMS THAT HAVE BEEN MISINTERPRETED IN TERMS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, DRUGS AND SCHOOL DROP-OUTS AFFECTING ONLY THE MINORITY," HE SAID.

DISCUSSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS HAD NOT YET FOCUSSED ATTENTION ON HOW TO FACILITATE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES THAT WOULD BE AFFECTING THEM, MR HUI SAID DURING THE DEBATE ON THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY.

HE SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY THAT A LONG-TERM GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT BE MADE TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

"THIS COMMITMENT WILL SIGNIFY PUBLIC INVESTMENT PLACED IN YOUTH, WHICH WILL IN TURN HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO HONG KONG," HE SAID.

/MR HUI

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MR HUI SAID HE WOULD GO BEYOND THE THEORETIC FRAMEWORK PRESENTED BY THE REPORT, AND URGE GOVERNMENT TO TRANSLATE THE REPORT'S PRINCIPLES INTO DIRECTIVES, FILTERING DOWN TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL.

"THIS WAY, POLICY DECISIONS WILL BE MADE WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON YOUNG PEOPLE, NOT 'WHEN NECESSARY AND JUSTIFIED', BUT AS PART AND PARCEL OF POLICY FORMULATION."

HE SAID THAT FIRM DECISIONS ON YOUTH POLICY WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BRING ABOUT REFORMS IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND REVISION OF CERTAIN LABOUR LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO MAXIMISE EDUCATION AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH.

HE ALSO SAID THAT TO FOSTER THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE, YOUTH WORK THAT SUPPLEMENTED FORMAL EDUCATION COULD BE EXPANDED AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROMOTED.

GREATER EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS THROUGH LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND CIVIC EDUCATION. THIS WOULD HELP TO ENHANCE THE STATUS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOCIETY.

MR HUI SAID HE HAD OUTLINED SOME PRIORITIES FOR AN IDEAL YOUTH POLICY, BUT HE SAID THESE HAD TO BE BACKED BY CONCRETE PLANS AND A SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

THE MAIN TASK NOW WAS TO SET UP THE PROPOSED COMMISSION ON YOUTH WHICH WOULD BE THE ONLY GUARANTEE OF SMOOTH CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WORKING TOWARDS THE SAME GOAL.

IN ADDITION TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSED FUNCTIONS, HE SUGGESTED THAT IT SHOULD ALSO MONITOR VARIOUS SOCIAL POLICIES AND RECOMMEND LEGISLATIVE CHANGES AFFECTING THE WELL-BEING OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

"THIS HIGH-POWERED COMMISSION, TO BE HEADED BY A COMMISSIONER FOR YOUTH, SHOULD FEATURE MEMBERSHIP DRAWN FROM RELATED DISCIPLINES," HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMISSION'S WORK COULD NOT BE OVER-EMPHASISED, IF HONG KONG'S YOUTH POLICY WAS TO MEET THEIR EMERGING NEEDS IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING ENVIRONMENT.

COMMENTING THAT IT HAD TAKEN TWO DECADES FOR HONG KONG TO FORMULATE A YOUTH POLICY, MR HUI SAID THE TIME HAD COME TO "GET THE POLICY OFF THE GROUND" AND TO SHOW THE YOUNGER GENERATION THAT THEY WERE BEING CARED FOR.

YOUTH POLICY A MUST FOR FORWARD LOOKING GOVT

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THE GOVERNMENT HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS SINCERITY AND FORESIGHT IN CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW ON THE NEED TO FORMULATE A YOUTH POLICY IN HONG KONG BY SETTING UP THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH IN MAY 1986, THE HON LIU LIT-FOR SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

EVERY GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS FORWARD LOOKING WOULD PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE ON THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ITS YOUNG PEOPLE, HE SAID DURING THE DEBATE ON THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY.

MR LIU PRAISED THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH FOR COMPLETING TWO SURVEYS ON MATTERS RELATING TO HONG KONG'S YOUNG PEOPLE AND MAKING COMPARATIVE STUDIES ON YOUTH POLICIES IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES.

THE COMPREHENSIVENESS AND INFORMATIVE DETAILS OF ITS WORK HAD WON THE ADMIRATION AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS.

THOUGH THERE HAD NOT BEEN AN OVERALL YOUTH POLICY, HONG KONG HAD ALL ALONG BEEN GIVING MUCH ATTENTION TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ITS YOUNG PEOPLE.

"IN AREAS OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, RECREATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE, A LOT OF MANPOWER AND RESOURCES HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED TO PROVIDE YOUTH WITH THE OPPORTUNITY OF ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

"THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND ITS RELATED PROBLEMS ARE A COMPLEX ISSUE, WHICH IS AT THE SAME TIME AN ALL-EMBRACING ONE.

"IN FACT, THE DUTIES OF MANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT PRESENT ARE IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER INVOLVED WITH YOUTH POLICY.

"BESIDES, A LARGE NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAVE ALSO MADE YOUTH THE TARGET OF THEIR SERVICES."

THE PROBLEM NOW WAS HOW TO BRING ABOUT AN EFFECTIVE FORM OF CO-ORDINATION IN WORK AND IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO ENSURE FURTHER EXPANSION OF YOUTH SERVICES.

MR LIU SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION ON YOUTH AS RECOMMENDED BY THE REPORT WOULD TO A CERTAIN EXTENT BE ABLE TO ASSUME A PROPER ROLE IN CO-ORDINATING YOUTH SERVICES.

HOWEVER, AS THIS COMMISSION WOULD BE PURELY AN ADVISORY BODY, IT WOULD NOT CARRY OUT ANY EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS.

/FURTHERMORE, IT

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FURTHERMORE, IT WAS SUGGESTED IN THE REPORT THAT IN VIEW OF THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD NOT DUPLICATE THE FUNCTIONS OF EXISTING STRUCTURES AT DISTRICT LEVELS, THERE WAS NO NEED TO DEVISE A DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

HE SAID HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING YOUTH POLICY WOULD EVENTUALLY FALL BACK ONTO THE PRESENT EXECUTIVE AND ADVISORY BODIES AT THE CENTRAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS IF A CLEAR DIRECTION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH POLICY WERE NOT SPELT OUT.

"AS A RESULT, ALL DISTRICT BODIES APART FROM THEIR OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES, WILL HAVE TO SHOULDER THE ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF IMPLEMENTING THE YOUTH POLICY, THEREBY MAKING THEIR TASKS MORE ONEROUS," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO YOUTH PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY, MR LIU SAID THAT FULL USE SHOULD BE MADE OF THE MASS MEDIA IN HELPING YOUTH.

"THE MASS MEDIA HAVE A FAR-REACHING IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE. TODAY'S YOUTHS ARE BROUGHT UP UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF TELEVISION WHICH, TOGETHER WITH MOVIES AND POP MUSIC, HAS BEEN EXERTING AN IMPERCEPTIBLE INFLUENCE ON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S OUTLOOK OF LIFE OVER THE YEARS," HE SAID.

"OTHER THAN PROVIDING ENTERTAINMENT, THE MEDIA HAVE ALSO AN EDUCATIONAL FUNCTION.

"IN DISCUSSING YOUTH POLICY, WE MUST AT THE SAME TIME CONSIDER HOW TO EFFECTIVELY ENSURE THAT THE MEDIA WOULD HELP EXERT A MORE POSITIVE AND EDIFYING INFLUENCE ON OUR NEXT GENERATION."

MR LIU SAID THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY SHOULD BE ABLE TO PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN MONITORING PRODUCTION STANDARDS OF THE LOCAL BROADCASTING INDUSTRY AND KEEP IN MIND THE NEED FOR THE LOCAL MEDIA TO PRODUCE PROGRAMMES OF HIGHER QUALITY.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE FILM CENSORSHIP BILL WHICH IS TO UNDERGO ITS THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL VERY SOON WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARD AGAINST UNDESIRABLE INFLUENCE ON THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

MR LIU ADDED THAT HE HOPED THE FUTURE CABLE TELEVISION NETWORK WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE POPULATION AND YOUTH IN PARTICULAR, WITH MORE EDUCATIONAL, PROFESSIONAL, DIVERSIFIED AND HIGH-QUALITY PROGRAMMES.

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APPROPRIATION BILL PASSED

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THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1988 WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TWO OTHER BILLS - THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 AND THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 - WERE ALSO PASSED AT THE MEETING.

FIVE BILLS WERE READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

THESE WERE THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES REGULATIONS)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 AND THE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

THE COUNCIL ALSO APPROVED TWO MOTIONS, MOVED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY UNDER THE PENSIONS (INCREASE) ORDINANCE AND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (INCREASE) ORDINANCE.

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BUDGET-RELATED BILLS GIVEN SECOND READING

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FOUR BILLS SEEKING TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO PROPOSALS IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET WERE GIVEN A SECOND READING BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES REGULATIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, AND STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

UNDER THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, AN EIGHT PER CENT INCREASE WAS PROPOSED ON FEES PAYABLE BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

THE BILL ON ROAD TRAFFIC SOUGHT TO INCREASE THE FEES FOR CERTAIN DRIVING AND VEHICLE LICENCES BY SIX PER CENT, EFFECTIVE FROM MARCH 2 THIS YEAR.

THE TWO BILLS WERE ESTIMATED TO YIELD ADDITIONAL REVENUES OF \$11 MILLION AND \$62 MILLION RESPECTIVELY IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

/THE INLAND

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THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 WOULD REDUCE THE STANDARD TAX RATE FROM 16.5 PER CENT TO 15.5 PER CENT AND THE RATE OF PROFITS TAX PAYABLE BY CORPORATIONS FROM 18 PER CENT TO 17 PER CENT.

IN ADDITION TO REVISIONS IN THE GRADUATED SCALE OF TAX RATES AND THE AMOUNT OF ALLOWANCES, THE BILL ALSO SOUGHT TO INTRODUCE AN ALLOWANCE OF UP TO \$15,000 FOR WORKING WIVES.

EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR, THE BILL WOULD COST ABOUT \$1,780 MILLION TO GENERAL REVENUE IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, AND \$2,790 MILLION PER ANNUM THEREAFTER AT PRESENT LEVELS OF CHARGEABLE INCOME.

UNDER THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, A REVISED SCALE OF STAMP DUTY PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF CONVEYANCES ON SALE WOULD BE INTRODUCED, ALSO WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1.

THE COST OF THE PROPOSAL WAS ESTIMATED AT \$300 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

DEBATES ON THE FOUR BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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REMOVAL OF NOMINAL INSPECTION CHARGE PROPOSED

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THE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 SEEKS TO REMOVE THE CHARGE FOR INSPECTION OF THE REGISTERS OF SOCIETIES MAINTAINED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AS REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR BARNES SAID THAT THE CHARGE HAD BEEN INTENDED TO DETER CASUAL BROWSING AND HAD BEEN SET AT A NOMINAL \$1.

"THE COMMISSIONER HAS POINTED OUT THAT MANY REQUESTS TO CONSULT THE REGISTER COME BY TELEPHONE, MAKING A CHARGE IMPRACTICAL AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN TO DETER FRIVOLOUS ACCESS TO THE REGISTERS," HE SAID.

"CONSEQUENTLY IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND SECTION 9(2) TO REMOVE THE OBLIGATION TO CHARGE A FEE."

/MR BARNES

MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT IF THE BILL WAS ENACTED, THE RULES MADE UNDER THE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE WOULD BE AMENDED TO DELETE THE \$1 CHARGE AND SUBSTITUTE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE REGISTRAR TO PREVENT CASUAL REFERENCE TO THE REGISTERS, SHOULD SUCH MEASURES EVER BE NECESSARY.

"OPPORTUNITY IS ALSO BEING TAKEN TO UPDATE THE ORDINANCE BY SUBSTITUTING THE WORDS 'HONG KONG' IN PLACE OF 'THE COLONY', WHEREVER THIS OCCURS," HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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SIX PER CENT INCREASE IN CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS

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TWO MOTIONS PROPOSING TO INCREASE THE RATE OF CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO INCREASE ALL CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS, INCLUDING THOSE PAYABLE UNDER THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION SCHEME AND UNDER THE WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME, BY SIX PER CENT, EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1.

THE TOTAL COST FOR THE PROPOSED PENSION INCREASE WAS ESTIMATED AT \$49.8 MILLION FOR A FULL YEAR.

IN MOVING THE TWO MOTIONS UNDER THE PENSIONS (INCREASE) ORDINANCE AND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (INCREASE) ORDINANCE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S DECLARED POLICY WAS TO MAINTAIN THE ORIGINAL PURCHASING POWER OF CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS.

THIS WAS ACHIEVED BY PERIODIC PENSION ADJUSTMENTS IN LINE WITH MOVEMENTS IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A), HE SAID.

THE INDEX INDICATED THAT ITS MOVING ANNUAL AVERAGE ROSE BY 6.5 POINTS OR 6.2 PER CENT DURING THE LATEST REVIEW PERIOD FROM APRIL 1 LAST YEAR TO MARCH 31 THIS YEAR.

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KCR CORPN MAKES \$276 MILLION NET PROFIT IN 1987

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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION ACHIEVED A NET PROFIT OF \$276 MILLION IN 1987, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, HE SAID THE NET PROFIT ACHIEVED WAS MORE THAN TWICE THE \$117 MILLION ACHIEVED IN 1986, AND THE \$47 MILLION LOSS ACCUMULATED SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE CORPORATION IN 1983 WAS THUS ELIMINATED.

"1987 WAS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION. PROFITABILITY IMPROED SUBSTANTIALLY AND ALL REVENUE GENERATING ACTIVITIES SHOWED HEALTHY GROWTH," HE SAID.

"TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE YEAR AMOUNTED TO \$964 MILLION, 31 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT FOR 1986.

"THE CORPORATION'S CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES AT YEAR END WERE \$394 MILLION AND \$191.2 MILLION RESPECTIVELY."

MR JACOBS NOTED THAT THE FIVE BUSINESS AREAS OF THE CORPORATION ALL PERFORMED WELL.

"THE HEAVY RAIL CARRIED OVER 136 MILLION PASSENGERS DURING THE YEAR, AN 18 PER CENT INCREASE OVER 1986," HE SAID.

"RAILWAY FACILITIES HAVE BEEN UPGRADED AND TRAIN CAPACITY INCREASED PROGRESSIVELY TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE GROWING NUMBER OF PASSENGERS."

TURNING TO FREIGHT TRAFFIC, MR JACOBS SAID IT CONTINUED TO GROW IN THE YEAR.

"WHILE OUTGOING FREIGHT TO CHINA REGISTERED A SIGNIFICANT GROWTH OF 24 PER CENT TO 1.1 MILLION TONNES, IMPORTS FROM CHINA RECORDED A MODEST GAIN OF FIVE PER CENT TO 3.48 MILLION TONNES," HE SAID.

"IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE ANTICIPATED SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN FREIGHT TRAFFIC IN THE COMING YEARS, THE CORPORATION IS ACTIVELY DISCUSSING WITH GOVERNMENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW FREIGHT TERMINAL.

"MEANWHILE, THE CORPORATION IS LOOKING INTO WAYS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY FREIGHT HANDLING FACILITIES."

/MR JACOBS

MR JACOBS NOTED THAT VISIBLE PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE YEAR IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE ONE OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM IN THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES, WHICH WAS DUE FOR COMMISSIONING IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

"THE CORPORATION HAS ALSO EMBARKED ON THE DESIGN WORK OF SIX ADDITIONAL REGIONAL LINKS TO COMPLETE THE FULL REGIONAL SYSTEM," HE SAID.

"GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED ON THE TWO PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ABOVE THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT PIERHEAD TERMINUS AND DEPOT IN TUEN MUN AND DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR A PACKAGE DEVELOPMENT DEAL INVOLVING THREE SITES ALONG THE KCR HAVE BEEN MADE.

"THE CORPORATION HAS ALSO COMMENCED STUDIES ON THE FEASIBILITY OF HAVING PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT ABOVE THE REMODELLED KCR DEPOT AND WORKSHOPS AT HO TUNG LAU."

MR JACOBS SAID THE CORPORATION'S BUSES BEGAN OPERATION IN SEPTEMBER, PROVIDING FEEDER SERVICES TO THE KCR AND INTERNAL SERVICES IN THE NORTHWEST TRANSIT SERVICE AREA, WITH ENCOURAGING PASSENGER GROWTH IN THE LAST QUARTER.

"ADDITIONAL ORDER FOR BUSES HAS BEEN PLACED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY BACK-UP FOR THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM," HE ADDED.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS SUCCESS AS A RESPONSIBLE AND EFFICIENT CORPORATION RENDERING A VARIETY OF TRANSPORT AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.

"WITH THE FUNDS GENERATED FROM THE RAILWAY OPERATION, THE CORPORATION IS PLANNING TO UNDERTAKE A NUMBER OF MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS AND TO UPGRADE THE RAILWAY FACILITIES SO AS TO KEEP PACE WITH THE CONTINUED POPULATION GROWTH IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE GROWTH IN PASSENGER AND FREIGHT MOVEMENTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA," HE SAID.

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PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL PRAISED

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THE ACHIEVEMENTS ATTAINED SO FAR BY THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL WILL HAVE THE CONTINUING EFFECT OF ENHANCING THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF DENTAL PRACTITIONERS IN HONG KONG, THE SENIOR MEMBER, THE HON LYDIA DUNN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MISS DUNN WAS TABLING THE 1986-87 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL.

SHE NOTED THAT THE REPORT HAD MENTIONED THE EXCELLENT RESULTS ACHIEVED BY STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG'S FACULTY OF DENTISTRY IN THE 1987 FINAL EXAMINATIONS.

"THIS IS FINE TESTIMONY TO THE VERY HIGH STANDARDS BEING MAINTAINED BY THE TEACHING STAFF OF THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY AND TO THE DEDICATION, HARD WORK AND PERSONAL TALENTS OF THOSE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE DENTISTRY THEIR CHOSEN PROFESSION," SHE SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT THE FACULTY WAS ALSO ASSUMING AN IMPORTANT ROLE AS A CENTRE OF DENTAL RESEARCH IN THE REGION.

"IN ADDITION TO THE TEACHING OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, THE FACULTY IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING POST-GRADUATE STUDIES FOR ITS OWN GRADUATES AND ALSO FOR GRADUATES OF UNIVERSITIES OVERSEAS," SHE NOTED.

THE RESEARCH WORK CARRIED OUT BOTH BY THOSE STUDENTS AND BY STAFF ENSURED THAT THE FACULTY WAS IN THE VANGUARD OF MODERN DEVELOPMENTS IN DENTISTRY, SHE SAID.

THE HOSPITAL WAS ALSO NOW THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NEWEST DIVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DENTAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION -- THE SOUTH EAST ASIA DIVISION.

THE FACULTY CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES WITH FACULTIES OF STOMATOLOGY IN CHINA WITH SENIOR STAFF FROM TIME TO TIME PRESENTING LECTURES IN THOSE FACULTIES AND HOLDING VISITING TEACHING APPOINTMENTS THERE.

CONVERSELY, VISITS TO THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL HAD BEEN MADE BY MANY SENIOR DENTAL STAFF FROM SISTER FACULTIES IN CHINA.

MISS DUNN NOTED THAT SENIOR STUDENTS WITH THEIR TEACHERS HAD PARTICIPATED IN OUTREACH COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH PROJECTS, OFTEN IN AREAS OF HONG KONG AT PRESENT UNDER-SERVED BY ORAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, AND THE SERVICES PROVIDED HAD BEEN GREATLY APPRECIATED BY THE PUBLIC.

/MISS DUNN

MISS DUNN ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR C.E. RENSON, FOUNDATION PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATIVE DENTISTRY, WHO RETIRED FROM THE FACULTY LAST YEAR.

FINALLY, SHE WISHED MR ANDREW LI, WHO SUCCEEDED HER AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE HOSPITAL, EVERY SUCCESS IN HIS WORK.

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VARIOUS ASPECTS OF NO CRIMINAL CONVICTION CERTIFICATES EXPLAINED
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THE POLICE DO NOT MAINTAIN RECORDS OF OFFENCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF WITHHOLDING THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES OF NO CRIMINAL CONVICTION (CNCC'S), THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THIS WHEN REPLYING TO THE HON ROSANNA TAM'S QUESTION ON THE KIND OF OFFENCES RECORDABLE BY THE POLICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF WITHHOLDING THE ISSUE OF CNCC'S.

"THE POLICE MAINTAIN RECORDS IN ORDER TO HELP THEM FULFIL THEIR STATUTORY DUTIES AND FOR LEGAL PURPOSES IN COURT PROCEEDINGS," MR BARNES SAID.

"THE POLICE ARE THEREFORE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH LOCAL CONDITIONS WHEN CONSIDERING WHAT OFFENCES SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF RECORD."

MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT CNCC'S WERE ISSUED ONLY BECAUSE THE DOCUMENTS WERE REQUESTED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS FOR IMMIGRATION AND STUDENT VISA PURPOSES.

WHEN CONSIDERING EITHER A CERTIFICATE, OR THE REASONS GIVEN FOR NOT ISSUING A CERTIFICATE, FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WOULD OF COURSE APPLY THEIR OWN STANDARD OF JUDGMENT BASED ON LEGAL CONDITIONS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

TURNING TO MRS TAM'S QUESTION ON THE AUTHORITY TO AMEND THE LIST OF RECORDABLE OFFENCES, MR BARNES SAID THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMINING WHAT CRIMES OR OFFENCES SHOULD BE CONTAINED IN THE LIST.

/IN DECIDING

IN DECIDING WHICH OFFENCES SHOULD BE RECORDABLE, MR BARNES SAID THE COMMISSIONER WOULD CONSIDER FOUR CRITERIA:

- * THE GRAVITY OF THE OFFENCE;
- * THE ATTITUDE IN LAW TO THE OFFENCE WITH REGARD TO THE PENALTY THAT CAN BE IMPOSED;
- * THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURTS FOR KNOWLEDGE OF PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS WHEN CONSIDERING SENTENCE; AND
- * THE PREVALENCE OF THE OFFENCE AND THE COMMUNITY'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS IT.

"THE LIST OF RECORDABLE OFFENCES IS REVIEWED ANNUALLY BY THE POLICE," HE SAID.

THOSE OFFENCES CONSIDERED TO JUSTIFY REMOVAL UNDER THE FOUR CRITERIA WOULD BE OMITTED FROM THE LIST, AND OTHERS MIGHT BE ADDED.

"IN GENERAL THE RECORDABLE OFFENCES ARE THOSE WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY SERIOUS SUCH AS MURDER, MANSLAUGHTER, RAPE, ABDUCTION, ROBBERY AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES, OR CRIMES WHICH ARE REGARDED AS PARTICULARLY OBNOXIOUS BY SOCIETY," MR BARNES SAID.

"AT PRESENT THERE ARE SOME 94 RECORDABLE OFFENCES."

MR BARNES STRESSED THAT ANY PERSON WHO APPLIED FOR A CNCC, WITH A PREVIOUS CONVICTION FOR AN OFFENCE NO LONGER RECORDABLE, WOULD BE ISSUED WITH A CERTIFICATE.

ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SPENT CONVICTION SCHEME AND CNCC'S, MR BARNES SAID THE SCHEME HAD NO BEARING ON THE ISSUE OF CNCC'S.

"APPLICANTS FOR VISAS OR IMMIGRATION PERMITS TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES ARE REQUIRED BY THOSE COUNTRIES TO STATE WHETHER THEY HAVE EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF AN OFFENCE," HE REMARKED.

DESIGNED TO CATER FOR LOCAL CONDITIONS, THE SPENT CONVICTION SCHEME COULD NOT PROSCRIBE THE ATTITUDE WHICH OTHER GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TAKE TO OFFENCES, NOR COULD IT BE USED TO REMOVE ANY INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE A FULL DISCLOSURE OF OFFENCES IF REQUIRED TO DO SO FOR EMIGRATION PURPOSES.

HOWEVER, TO ASSIST APPLICANTS WITH A RECORDED CONVICTION REGARDED AS "SPENT", MR BARNES SAID THE POLICE WOULD STATE IN ANY LETTERS OF REFUSAL TO GRANT A CERTIFICATE THAT "THIS CONVICTION IS REGARDED AS SPENT IN HONG KONG BY VIRTUE OF SECTION 2(1) OF THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS ORDINANCE".

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THE AUTHORITIES RECEIVING THE LETTER WOULD KNOW THE OFFENCE WAS REGARDED AS TRIVIAL AND WAS NOT GIVEN ANY FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN HONG KONG.

"THEY WILL, HOWEVER, AS I HAVE SAID, IN ANY CASE EXERCISE THEIR JUDGMENT," MR BARNES SAID.

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MEETINGS WITH SCHOOLS COUNCILS, TEACHERS ON CONTRACTUAL ISSUE
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS ARRANGED FOR MEETINGS WITH THE SCHOOLS COUNCILS AND TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS TO DISCUSS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CODES OF AID CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF AN AMOUNT OF MONEY BY SUBSIDISED SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO RESIGN WITHOUT GIVING SUFFICIENT NOTICE.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SZETO WAH, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, AN EMPLOYEE MIGHT TERMINATE HIS CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT NOTICE BY PAYING THE EMPLOYER AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE EMPLOYEE'S WAGES DURING THE PERIOD OF NOTICE SPECIFIED IN THE CONTRACT.

"IN THE CASE OF AIDED SCHOOL TEACHERS, THE CODES OF AID PROVIDE FOR A TEACHER WHO RESIGNS WITHOUT NOTICE TO PAY BACK ONE MONTH'S SALARY," HE SAID.

"IF A TEACHER, AFTER GIVING PROPER NOTICE, THEREAFTER TERMINATES THE CONTRACT, THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT HE SHOULD PAY THE EMPLOYER AN AMOUNT PROPORTIONAL TO THE UNEXPIRED PERIOD OF NOTICE."

HOWEVER, MR BRIDGE SAID, BECAUSE THERE WAS SOME DOUBT AS TO WHETHER THE CODES OF AID FOR SCHOOLS WERE IN LINE WITH THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD SOUGHT LEGAL ADVICE.

"THE ADVICE RECEIVED WAS THAT A TEACHER WHO TERMINATES HIS EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT GIVING THE REQUIRED PERIOD OF NOTICE SHOULD BE LIABLE TO PAY TO THE SCHOOL AN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO HIS WAGES FOR THE FULL PERIOD OF NOTICE.

/"WHERE THE

"WHERE THE TEACHER GIVES INSUFFICIENT NOTICE HE SHOULD BE LIABLE TO PAY TO THE SCHOOL AN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO HIS WAGES FOR THE BALANCE OF THE PERIOD OF NOTICE.

"AS A RESULT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ISSUED A CIRCULAR AMENDING THE CODES OF AID," HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE NOTED THAT AS THIS WAS FELT TO BE A TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO BRING THE CODES OF AID MORE CLOSELY IN LINE WITH THE LAW, CONSULTATION WAS NOT THOUGHT TO BE NECESSARY.

"NEVERTHELESS, AT A MEETING WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON DECEMBER 15, THE SCHOOLS COUNCILS WERE INFORMED OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS."

MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT THE CHANGE AS ANNOUNCED WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE SCHOOLS WITH AMENDED GUIDELINES APPLYING TO NEW CONTRACTS. THUS, EXISTING CONTRACTS WERE NOT AFFECTED.

"IN VIEW OF THE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WHICH THIS CHANGE HAS GENERATED, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS NOW ARRANGED FOR MEETINGS WITH THE SCHOOLS COUNCILS AND TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS TO CLARIFY THE ISSUE AND TO RESOLVE ANY PROBLEMS.

"MEANWHILE THE CIRCULAR HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN PENDING THIS CONSULTATION," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF MATERNITY LEAVE WHICH WAS ALSO RAISED BY MR SZETO, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, AN EMPLOYER WAS REQUIRED TO GIVE SIX WEEKS' POST-NATAL LEAVE.

"THE CODES OF AID, HOWEVER, STATE THAT A TEACHER MAY RETURN TO WORK BETWEEN FOUR AND SIX WEEKS AFTER GIVING BRITH, SUBJECT TO MEDICAL ADVICE," HE SAID.

"AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, IT WAS CLEAR TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT THAT A TEACHER MUST BE GIVEN THE LEGAL MINIMUM OF SIX WEEKS' POST-NATAL LEAVE.

"THE CODES OF AID HAVE THEREFORE BEEN AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR THIS, AND SCHOOL MANAGERMENTS HAVE BEEN SO INFORMED.

"SINCE THIS WAS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT NO CONSULTATION WAS FELT TO BE NECESSARY.

"THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS NOW STUDYING THE IMPLICATIONS FOR EXISTING CONTRACTS."

STEPS BEING TAKEN TO IMPROVE AIRPORT PROCESSING

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MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE PROCESSING OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AT IMMIGRATION CONTROL COUNTERS AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE IMPROVEMENTS TO BE INTRODUCED INCLUDED COMPUTERISATION, ADDITIONAL IMMIGRATION COUNTERS AND MORE IMMIGRATION STAFF TO COPE WITH THE INCREASED WORKLOAD.

"IT IS EXPECTED THAT THESE MEASURES WILL GO SOME WAY TO REDUCING THE OVERALL WAITING TIME, AND WILL ALLOW MORE SCOPE FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE THAT COUNTERS DESIGNATED FOR RESIDENTS ARE MORE EXCLUSIVELY USED BY RESIDENTS," MR BARNES SAID IN A REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT SOME HONG KONG RESIDENTS HAD EXPERIENCED INCONVENIENCE IN GETTING THROUGH IMMIGRATION CONTROL AT THE AIRPORT DURING PEAK HOURS BECAUSE THE LINES DESIGNATED FOR THEM WERE SOMETIMES ALSO USED BY OVERSEAS VISITORS.

"A SEGREGATED SYSTEM ACHIEVES ITS BEST RESULTS IF RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS ARE PROCESSED IN SEPARATE HALLS, WITH SEPARATE RESOURCES.

"THE IMMIGRATION FACILITIES AT KAI TAK AIRPORT WERE, HOWEVER, ONLY DESIGNED FOR OPEN FRONT CLEARANCE," MR BARNES SAID.

"THE GOVERNMENT NEVERTHELESS RECOGNISES THAT HONG KONG RESIDENTS SHOULD BE CLEARED THROUGH IMMIGRATION CONTROL AS SPEEDILY AND EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE AND HAS DESIGNATED CERTAIN COUNTERS FOR THEM."

HE ADDED THAT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WOULD DEPLOY REGULATORS IN THE HALLS TO HELP PASSENGERS QUEUE IN THE RIGHT LINES, WHENEVER RESOURCES PERMITTED.

"ALTHOUGH THESE FACILITIES ARE IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG RESIDENTS, IT IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT VISITORS ARE ALSO GIVEN COURTEOUS AND EXPEDITIOUS SERVICE," HE SAID.

"THIS WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE ACHIEVED IF VISITORS WERE REQUIRED TO QUEUE IN LONG LINES WHILE THEY COULD SEE RESIDENT COUNTERS BEING RELATIVELY UNDER-USED.

/ "A PARTIAL

"A PARTIAL SOLUTION COULD BE THE ALLOCATION OF FEWER COUNTERS FOR RESIDENTS, BUT THIS WOULD NOT BE IN KEEPING WITH THE SERVICE INTENDED FOR HONG KONG RESIDENTS."

TO STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE AND TO ACHIEVE THE BEST USE OF THE RESOURCES, MR BARNES NOTED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE COUNTERS SHOULD BE USED FLEXIBLY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TRAFFIC SITUATION AT THE TIME.

"UNFORTUNATELY, GIVEN THE CONSTRAINTS PRESENTED BY THE DESIGN AND LAYOUT OF THE AIRPORT, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ENFORCE A RIGID SEGREGATION OF PASSENGERS," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT NEW FACILITIES WOULD BE INTRODUCED SOON TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT SITUATION AND THAT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WOULD MONITOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE NEW FACILITIES.

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CONTRACTUAL PROTECTION FOR MANUAL WORKERS EMPLOYED ABROAD
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STATUTORY PROTECTION FOR MANUAL WORKERS TAKING UP EMPLOYMENT ABROAD, PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG ORDINANCE, IS CONSIDERED ADEQUATE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG, MR BRIDGE SAID THE ORDINANCE REQUIRED THE EMPLOYER OR HIS DULY AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH THE WORKER.

"THE CONTRACT MUST BE SIGNED BY THE WORKER AND ATTESTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT BEFORE HE LEAVES HONG KONG FOR EMPLOYMENT.

/"THE ORDINANCE

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"THE ORDINANCE REQUIRES THAT THE CONTRACT MUST CONTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT RATES OF WAGES AND OVERTIME, DAYS AND HOURS OF WORK, REST DAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS," HE CONTINUED.

"IT MUST ALSO PROVIDE FOR VARYING OR TERMINATING THE CONTRACT AND MAKE THE EMPLOYER RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING PASSAGES TO AND FROM THE PLACE OF WORK FOR THE WORKER.

"THE CONTRACT MUST ALSO SPECIFY THE EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY TO PAY FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES AND COMPENSATION FOR WORK INJURY.

"IN ESSENCE, THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS DEFINED IN THE CONTRACT MUST BE BROADLY IN LINE WITH THOSE PROVIDED UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, BOTH OF WHICH RELATE TO EMPLOYEES IN HONG KONG."

MR BRIDGE WARNED THAT AN EMPLOYER OR HIS AGENT MIGHT BE PROSECUTED IF HE FAILED TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH A MANUAL WORKER BEFORE DEPARTURE OR INDUCED THE WORKER TO DEPART FROM HONG KONG FOR EMPLOYMENT BEFORE THE CONTRACT WAS ATTESTED.

"UPON CONVICTION, AN EMPLOYER IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$50,000," HE SAID.

"IN 1987, FOUR PROSECUTIONS WERE TAKEN OUT AGAINST EMPLOYERS FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND RESULTED IN FOUR CONVICTIONS WITH FINES TOTTALLING \$8,000."

MR BRIDGE NOTED THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ASSISTED WORKERS IN SETTLING DISPUTES BY CONCILIATION.

"IF CONCILIATION FAILS A CASE MAY BE REFERRED TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL FOR ADJUDICATION UPON REQUEST FROM THE PARTIES INVOLVED.

"IN 1987 THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HANDLED 65 DISPUTES OF THIS NATURE AND HELPED TO SETTLE 26. THIRTY-THREE CASES WERE REFERRED TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL FOR ADJUDICATION AND THE REMAINING SIX WERE WITHDRAWN."

HOWEVER, MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT THE ORDINANCE DID NOT APPLY TO NON-MANUAL WORKERS LEAVING HONG KONG FOR EMPLOYMENT.

/THEIR MAIN

"THEIR MAIN PROTECTION IS BY MEANS OF A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS OR THEIR LOCAL AGENTS.

"IF THEY ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING CONTRACTUAL ENTITLEMENTS, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ASSISTS THEM IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS BY CONCILIATION AFTER THEIR RETURN TO HONG KONG."

HE ADDED THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WAS NOW REVIEWING THE ORDINANCE, PARTICULARLY WHETHER ITS SCOPE SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO COVER NON-MANUAL WORKERS.

"THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE DOES NOT YET COVER WORK INJURIES WHICH ARE SUSTAINED OUTSIDE HONG KONG," MR BRIDGE SAID.

"WE WILL SHORTLY BE PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDINANCE TO EXPAND ITS SCOPE TO COVER WORK INJURIES TO HONG KONG WORKERS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY HONG KONG EMPLOYERS TO WORK OUTSIDE HONG KONG."

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PLAN TO SET UP EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SECTION

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PLANS TO ESTABLISH AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SECTION UNDER THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ROSANNA TAM CONCERNING IMPROVEMENTS TO PROMOTE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, MR BRIDGE SAID THE NEW SECTION WOULD GIVE FURTHER ASSISTANCE ON A REGULAR BASIS TO SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMMES.

"THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS SECTION WILL ALSO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN DETERMINING THE DIRECTION OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND ANY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED," HE ADDED.

/TURNING TO

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TURNING TO THE ARRANGEMENT SINCE 1982 THAT FIVE ADDITIONAL TEACHING POSTS WERE TO BE PROVIDED IN STAGES FOR EACH STANDARD SIZE GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOL, MR BRIDGE SAID ONE OF THEM WAS INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN STUDENT COUNSELLING IN THE SCHOOLS AND ANOTHER TO STRENGTHEN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

"AS FAR AS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE CONCERNED THE ADDITIONAL POST ENABLES THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL TO APPOINT A TEAM OF TEACHERS, HEADED BY A CO-ORDINATOR, TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PLANNING AND THE CONDUCT OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES BY ALL TEACHING STAFF THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL," HE SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE TO LAY DOWN INSTRUCTIONS ON THE DUTIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE ADDITIONAL TEACHERS.

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS MUST BE GIVEN THE DISCRETION TO DEPLOY THEIR STAFF AS THEY SEE FIT GIVEN THEIR AWARENESS OF THE APTITUDES, INTERESTS AND ABILITIES OF THEIR STAFF AND STUDENTS.

"INSTEAD, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THE FOCUS SHOULD BE TO MONITOR THE END RESULT, THAT IS, THE OVERALL QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY EACH SCHOOL. THIS MONITORING IS UNDERTAKEN BY DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICERS DURING THEIR REGULAR VISITS TO SCHOOLS," HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT IN JUNE 1987 AN OFFICER OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS APPOINTED TO SERVE AS SECRETARY TO THE HONG KONG EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATORS' ASSOCIATION WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING MORE PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT TO THIS ORGANISATION, WHOSE MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO BETTER PROMOTE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS.

"THIS OFFICER PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO THE ASSOCIATION IN A NUMBER OF AREAS, PARTICULARLY IN ORGANISING EXTRA-MURAL COURSES, AND ARRANGING SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS FOR THE CO-ORDINATORS," HE NOTED.

MR BRIDGE SAID THAT, AT THE SAME TIME, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS PUSHING FORWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRALLY ORGANISED EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON A TERRITORY-WIDE SCALE.

THESE INCLUDED THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB SCHEME, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME AND THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMMES, ALL OF WHICH ATTRACTED LARGE NUMBERS OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS.

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BURNING OF SUBMISSIONS TO SURVEY OFFICE TOMORROW

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SUBMISSIONS MADE TO THE SURVEY OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO THE GREEN PAPER "THE 1987 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT" WILL BE DESTROYED AT THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT WHEN THE GREEN PAPER WAS PUBLISHED IN MAY 1987, THE GOVERNMENT INVITED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS TO THE SURVEY OFFICE.

IT WAS ALSO PROMISED THAT SUBMISSIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH CONFIDENTIALITY WAS REQUESTED BY THE CONTRIBUTOR WOULD BE TREATED ACCORDINGLY AND DESTROYED AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE PAPER.

"THIS COMMITMENT IS BEING HONOURED," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAD NOW ORDERED THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL SUBMISSIONS EXCEPT, FOR THE TIME BEING, SUBMISSIONS WHICH WERE ALLEGEDLY "FALSE" AND CONSEQUENTLY THE SUBJECT OF POLICE INVESTIGATIONS.

"THESE ALLEGEDLY FALSE SUBMISSIONS WILL ALSO BE DESTROYED WHEN POLICE INVESTIGATIONS ARE COMPLETE," HE SAID.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE SUPERVISED BY MR ANDREW SO, ONE OF THE TWO MONITORS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR IN 1987 TO OVERSEE THE WORK OF THE SURVEY OFFICE. THE OTHER MONITOR, MR F.K. LI, IS NOT IN HONG KONG.

MR JOHN CHAN, THE DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY, AND MR ADOLF HSU, WHO WAS COMMISSIONER OF THE SURVEY OFFICE, WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE MEDIA TO COVER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SUBMISSIONS TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

CONFIDENTIAL SUBMISSIONS IN SEALED BOXES WILL BE REMOVED FROM A SAFE ROOM AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, AT 9.30 AM AND TRANSPORTED TO THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR WHERE THEY WILL BE BURNED.

OTHER SUBMISSIONS, WHICH ARE STORED AT THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE, WILL BE REMOVED DIRECT TO THE INCINERATOR AND DESTROYED IN THE SAME MANNER.

/MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE EVENT ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT 9.15 AM AT THE GROUND FLOOR LOBBY OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, WHERE THEY WILL WITNESS THE REMOVAL OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SUBMISSIONS.

A COACH WILL THEN TAKE THEM TO THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR TO COVER THE BURNING OF THE SUBMISSIONS.

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IT'S CAUGHT AT CONSTRUCTION SITES MAY BE PROSECUTED

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ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAUGHT AT CONSTRUCTION SITES MAY NOW BE PROSECUTED FOR ILLEGALLY REMAINING IN HONG KONG, AN OFFENCE WHICH CARRIES A MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT, A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WORKING AT CONSTRUCTION SITES HAD BECOME MORE SERIOUS OVER THE PAST FOUR MONTHS.

LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 26,701 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE ARRESTED IN THE TERRITORY, OF WHICH OVER 1,100 WERE CAUGHT AT CONSTRUCTION SITES.

BUT OVER THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, MORE THAN NINE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ARRESTS (7,869) WERE MADE AT CONSTRUCTION SITES.

IN TWO SEPARATE OPERATIONS RECENTLY, 67 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE FOUND WORKING AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN TAI PO AND TAI TAM.

IN VIEW OF THE GROWING PROBLEM, THE SPOKESMAN SAID POLICE WOULD CONSIDER TAKING OUT PROSECUTION AGAINST THE ILLEGAL ENTRANTS UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, BEFORE REPATRIATING THEM BACK TO CHINA.

PERSONS CONVICTED FOR REMAINING IN THE TERRITORY WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION ARE LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE YEARS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT HAD BEEN POLICE POLICY TO CHARGE EVADERS WHO HAD ENTERED HONG KONG MORE THAN ONCE FOR THE OFFENCE OF "ILLEGALLY REMAINING" AND IT WAS HOPED THAT EXTENDING THE PROSECUTION TO COVER ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WORKING AT CONSTRUCTION SITES WOULD ACT AS A DETERRENT TO ANY POTENTIAL ENTRANTS.

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ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHO STAY
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HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE TO THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO STAY INCOMPARABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT AND FOR UTILISING AND HONING THEIR BUSINESS SKILLS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR PETER TSAO, IN BELGIUM WHEN HE ADDRESSED A JOINT MEETING OF THE LIEGE EXPORTERS' CLUB AND THE BELGIUM-HONG KONG SOCIETY.

"HONG KONG PROVIDES A CHALLENGING LIFESTYLE, WHERE HARD WORK IS REWARDED AND, AS MANY RETURNING EMIGRANTS HAVE FOUND, ONCE HONG KONG IS IN YOUR BLOOD IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO GET IT OUT," MR TSAO REMARKED.

NOTING THAT MANY OF THOSE WHO WERE LEAVING THE TERRITORY NOW WERE PEOPLE WHOM HONG KONG COULD ILL-AFFORD TO BE DEPRIVED OF, MR TSAO SAID THE FIGURE AT THE MOMENT WAS NOT AT A LEVEL WHICH WAS TO ANY EXTENT UNMANAGEABLE.

"IT IS HOWEVER A CAUSE FOR CONCERN AND THE GOVERNMENT IS EXAMINING THE PROBLEM CAREFULLY. BUT NO FREE COUNTRY WOULD WISH TO PROSCRIBE ITS POPULATION FROM CHOOSING WHERE THEY WANT TO LIVE AND HONG KONG IS NO EXCEPTION.

"HONG KONG PEOPLE BY VIRTUE OF THEIR DYNAMISM AND NATURAL INTELLIGENCE ARE OF COURSE HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER - IT'S A VERY SINCERE FORM OF FLATTERY THAT THEY SHOULD BE SO EFFICIENTLY WOODED BY OTHER COUNTRIES," HE SAID.

MR TSAO FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT THE AUGURIES FOR THE FUTURE ARE EXTREMELY FAVOURABLE.

"RELATIONS AND TRADE WITH CHINA ARE DEVELOPING TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT OUR ECONOMY IS BOOMING. THIS, IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE.

"HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE HISTORICALLY TAKEN VICISSITUDES AND UNCERTAINTIES AND MADE FORTUNES OUT OF THEM. HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE DYNAMIC AND IMAGINATIVE, HARD WORKING AND FLEXIBLE.

"I BELIEVE THAT THESE ARE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE HONG KONG'S CONTINUED SUCCESS INTO THE 90'S AND BEYOND.

"THE JOINT DECLARATION HAS PROVIDED THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH HONG KONG CAN EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO PROSPER AND I AM CONVINCED IT WILL DO SO," MR TSAO SAID.

MR TSAO IS NOW ON A SPEAKING TOUR TO EUROPE AND IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO HONG KONG ON SATURDAY (MAY 14).

GREATER NEED FOR QUALITY IN MANUFACTURING

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A COMMITTEE INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE ORGANISATIONS AND LEADING MANUFACTURERS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO FORMULATE A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS FOR THE PROMOTION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE TERRITORY-WIDE.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR ANDREW LEUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFICATION LABORATORIES LTD.

MR LEUNG SAID THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WAS EXAMINING WAYS AND MEANS TO FURTHER PROMOTE THE WIDER APPLICATION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND HAD SET UP A QUALITY SERVICES DIVISION TO CO-ORDINATE AND IMPLEMENT ALL QUALITY RELATED ACTIVITIES.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH ENABLED THE MANUFACTURERS TO ADOPT QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE WORK PLACE.

"THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S PRODUCT STANDARDS INFORMATION BUREAU COLLECTS AND DISSEMINATES INFORMATION ON OVERSEAS PRODUCT STANDARDS, WHILE THE DEPARTMENT ITSELF HAS ALSO ASSUMED HONG KONG'S CORRESPONDENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION SINCE APRIL 1987.

"OUR STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY HAS BEEN ACCREDITED BY THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND WE ARE LIKEWISE SEEKING BILATERAL RECOGNITION OF OUR HONG KONG LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME.

"IN ADDITION, THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO MANUFACTURERS ON SETTING UP APPROPRIATE QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEMS WITHIN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR."

MR LEUNG EXPLAINED THAT QUALITY ASSURANCE WAS THE KEY TO THE ATTAINMENT OF QUALITY, TO SATISFY CUSTOMERS THAT OUR GOODS REPRESENT BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY IN TERMS OF DESIGN, PERFORMANCE, SAFETY, AND DURABILITY.

"AS FAR AS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES ARE CONCERNED, QA SYSTEMS NORMALLY COMPRISE THE APPLICATION OF STANDARDS; QUALITY CONTROL; TESTING AND CERTIFICATION; AND QUALITY SURVEILLANCE."

STRESSING THE INCREASING COMPETITION HONG KONG FACED IN THE OVERSEAS MARKETS, MR LEUNG NOTED THAT A VERY LARGE PROPORTION OF THE DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RELATIVELY LABOUR INTENSIVE OR FELL INTO THE CATEGORY OF SUB-ASSEMBLY "ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURE" (OEM), OF WHICH THE QUALITY STANDARDS WERE GENERALLY DICTATED BY PRICE.

/ "MORE AND

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"MORE AND MORE TERRITORIES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD AND ASIA ARE NOW ABLE TO PRODUCE GOODS OF SIMILAR QUALITY (EXCEPT GARMENTS) AT LOWER COSTS THAN IN HONG KONG, RESULTING IN A DECLINE IN THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG IN MANUFACTURING SUCH NON-GARMENT PRODUCTS.

"WE ARE ALSO LOSING MARKET SHARE TO SOME OF OUR ASIAN COMPETITORS, ESPECIALLY IN THE U.S. MARKET, IN TERMS OF GOODS OF HIGHER VALUES PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF CONSUMER ELECTRONICS.

"AS OUR OVERSEAS MARKETS ARE PUTTING GREATER AND GREATER EMPHASIS ON QUALITY WITH INCREASINGLY STRINGENT PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS, OUR EXPORTS ARE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED UNLESS WE CAN IMPROVE IN GOOD TIME THE QUALITY COMPETITIVENESS OF OUR PRODUCTS ON A BROAD FRONT."

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HK POLICE EXPERIENCE USEFUL TO CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

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LESSONS LEARNED IN THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE BY CHIEF INSPECTOR MICK HUGHES, FORMERLY AN INSTRUCTOR WITH THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT, ARE BEING ABSORBED INTO TRAINING PROGRAMMES USED BY POLICE FORCES IN THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS.

MR HUGHES IS ON A TWO-YEAR SECONDMENT TO BARBADOS AS A POLICE PUBLIC ORDER TRAINING ADVISER.

HIS POST WAS FILLED FROM HONG KONG BY THE UNITED KINGDOM OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE BRITISH FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE.

MR HUGHES SAID: "MY JOB OVER THE PAST YEAR OR SO HAS BEEN TO SET UP INTERNAL SECURITY TRAINING AND INSTRUCT ON COURSES FOR A NUMBER OF CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES.

"I WORK MAINLY FOR THE REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM, WHICH IS AN ALLIANCE OF BARBADOS, ANTIGUA (WITH BARBADA), ST LUCIA, ST KITTS (WITH NEVIS), GRENADA, DOMINICA, AND ST VICENT (WITH THE GRENADINES). THESE ARE ALL INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE AGREED ON A SYSTEM OF MUTUAL AID.

"THE TEAM I WORK WITH IS MAINLY MILITARY, COMPRISING A NUMBER OF BRITISH ROYAL MARINES AND AMERICAN ARMY SPECIAL FORCES (THE GREEN BERETS). WE RUN A NUMBER OF BASIC AND LEADERS' COURSES FOR SPECIAL SERVICE UNITS - WHICH ARE POLICE PARAMILITARY UNITS SET UP IN COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT HAVE DEFENCE FORCES.

/ "THE COURSES

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"THE COURSES ARE A MIXTURE OF MILITARY AND POLICE TRAINING.

"THE FIRST JOB ON MY ARRIVAL WAS TO DECIDE ON THE SUBJECTS TO BE TAUGHT WITH REGARD TO INTERNAL SECURITY. THE TACTICS EMPLOYED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE SOLVED THE PROBLEM ADMIRABLY.

"DURING THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE RUN OTHER SPECIALIST COURSES AND HAVE AT THE SAME TIME TRAINED UP CARIBBEAN INSTRUCTORS WHO WE HOPE EVENTUALLY WILL TAKE ALL INSTRUCTIONAL DUTIES OFF OUR HANDS.

"AS PART OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME THE RSS HAS HAD LARGE SCALE EXERCISES WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS THE JAMAICA DEFENCE FORCE, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, U.S. AND BRITISH AIR FORCES AND THE ROYAL NAVY.

"EXERCISES HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE IN DOMINICA AND JAMAICA AND THIS YEAR WILL BE IN PUERTO RICO AND ST KITTS.

"IN ADDITION TO INSTRUCTIONAL DUTIES I HAVE ALSO HAD TO PERFORM ADVISORY VISITS TO EACH COUNTRY TO LOOK AT THEIR RESPONSES TO PUBLIC ORDER AND OTHER INCIDENTS."

MR HUGHES SAID THAT THERE WAS PLENTY OF WORK TO BE DONE ALONG THOSE LINES AND HE THOUGHT HE WAS THE FIRST ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE REPRESENTATIVE TO WORK IN THE CARIBBEAN SINCE MR GUS CUNNINGHAM SOME YEARS AGO.

"WHILE HERE I HAVE ALSO BEEN GIVEN A SECONDARY DUTY OF ADVISORY VISITS AND TRAINING FOR SOME BRITISH DEPENDANCIES - ANGUILLA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, MONTserrat AND TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS. THE CAYMAN ISLANDS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN OUR TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME.

"THE REMAINING YEAR I HAVE HERE WILL BE TAKEN UP LESS WITH INSTRUCTIONAL DUTIES AND MORE WITH THE CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR EACH COUNTRY."

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BONSAI AND FLOWER PLANTS ON DISPLAY FROM SATURDAY

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VISITORS TO THE CHING CHUNG KOON TAOIST MONASTERY THIS WEEKEND WILL BE ABLE TO APPRECIATE MORE THAN 400 RARE AND BEAUTIFUL BONSAI AND FLOWER PLANTS ON DISPLAY AT 1988 TUEN MUN BONSAI SHOW.

THE BONSAI SHOW OPENS ON SATURDAY (MAY 14) AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 23.

/IT IS

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IT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MONASTERY, TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AND SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY CO. LTD., AND KOWLOON MOTOR BUS CO. LTD.

THE AIM IS TO PROMOTE A SENSE OF LOVE AND CARE FOR NATURE AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO ASSIST IN IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE MAIN ATTRACTIONS WILL BE TWO VALUABLE EXHIBITS FROM THE MONASTERY, A JADE PLANT AND A YELLOW BRAMBLE.

THE JADE PLANT IS A VERY OLD CASCADE PLANT DEMONSTRATING A FINE BLEND OF HUMAN ARTISTIC TECHNIQUE AND THE WORK OF NATURE.

THE YELLOW BRAMBLE IS MORE THAN 200 YEARS OLD AND HAS ACQUIRED A STYLISTIC APPEARANCE THROUGH WEATHERING OF WIND AND RAIN, AND THE HAND OF MAN.

APART FROM THE FINE COLLECTION OF POTTED PLANTS FROM THE MONASTERY, VISITORS TO THE SHOW WILL ALSO SEE THE WINNING ENTRIES OF STUDENTS AND BONSAI LOVERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE SCHOOL AND OPEN SECTION COMPETITION HELD RECENTLY IN TUEN MUN.

THE 10-DAY EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM. ADMISSION IS FREE.

FREE TRANSPORT WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED BY THE ORGANISERS FROM 9 AM TO 6 PM ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS TO TAKE VISITORS FROM THE TUEN MUN FERRY PIER TO CHING CHUNG KOON.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 11 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 14). OFFICIATING WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI; DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES, MR HAIDER BARMA; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, DR K.S. YIP; AND TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JOHN WAN.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1988 TUEN MUN BONSAI SHOW AT 11 AM ON MAY 14 (SATURDAY) IN THE CHING CHUNG KOON TAOIST MONASTERY, TUEN MUN. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO TAKE GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT 9.45 AM THAT DAY AT THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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NORTH DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS KEEP HK CLEAN ACTIVITIES
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THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS PROGRAMMES IN SUPPORT OF THIS YEAR'S KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE BOARD'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 1988, WHICH FALLS ON JUNE 5.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE REQUESTS FOR CARRYING OUT LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, AS WELL AS PROGRESS REPORTS ON VILLAGE LIGHTING INSTALLATION, MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING. THE MEETING WILL START AT 9.30 AM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WORK
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THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR 1988-89.

THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS ENDORSED AN ALLOCATION OF \$880,000 FOR CARRYING OUT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE PROJECTS INCLUDE PLAN TO BEAUTIFY THE SEAFRONT OFF MA TAU KOK ROAD AND A REAR LANE OF MING LUN STREET; AND WORKS TO IMPROVE RAILING AND FOOTSTEPS AT VALLEY ROAD.

ALSO, THERE WILL BE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES, KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES, AND REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS OF DISTRICT BOARD INSTALLATIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN. THE MEETING WILL START AT 2.15 PM.

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SAI KUNG DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS

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THE CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS UNDER THE REGIONAL COUNCIL DISTRICT FESTIVALS SUBSIDY SCHEME.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO EXAMINE OTHER APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS AND DISCUSS MATTERS CONCERNING THE PRODUCTION OF THE "SAI KUNG SUITE" - A PUBLICATION ABOUT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CHOIR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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DB CULTURE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FOR HOLDING CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO STUDY PROGRESS REPORTS ON CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES, LIBRARY EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AND DISTRICT BOARD-SPONSORED CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG. THE MEETING WILL START AT 3 PM.

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SIU LEK YUEN POLICE STATION TO START OPERATION

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THE NEW SIU LEK YUEN DIVISIONAL POLICE STATION IN SHA TIN WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL AT 8 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE NINE-STOREY BUILDING IS OF STANDARD DESIGN, WITH A CONSTRUCTION COST OF \$18 MILLION. IT WILL PROVIDE POLICING FOR THE AREA ALONG SHING MUN RIVER, FROM "CITY ONE" TO MA ON SHAN, WHERE NEW HOUSING ESTATES ARE BEING BUILT.

THE NEW STATION IS SITUATED AT 25-27 YUEN SHUN CIRCUIT, NEAR THE HANG SENG SCHOOL OF COMMERCE. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE STATION IS SUPERINTENDENT BRIAN BOYTON. HE IS ASSISTED BY THREE ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL COMMANDERS - ADVC/CRIME, MR NORMAN RICH; ADVC/OPERATIONS, MR STEPHEN VERRALLS; AND ADVC/ADMINISTRATION, MR JOHN YEUNG.

RESIDENTS LIVING IN THE AREA CAN GO TO THE NEW POLICE STATION, OR TELEPHONE 0-6368080 OR 0-6368214, IF THEY WANT TO MAKE A REPORT OR SEEK POLICE ASSISTANCE.

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TENANCIES SOUGHT FOR TWO GOVERNMENT SITES

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TWO GOVERNMENT SITES AT FO TAN, SHA TIN, ARE TO LET BE BY TENDER ON SHORT TERM TENANCY BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

ONE SITE MEASURES ABOUT 6,334 SQUARE METRES AND THE OTHER ONE HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 6,229 SQUARE METRES.

THE TENANCIES FOR BOTH SITES ARE FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THEY ARE FOR STORAGE OF GOODS, PLANT AND MACHINERY, VEHICLES AND BUILDING MATERIALS, EXCLUDING CONTAINERS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON MAY 27.

TENDER FORM AND NOTICE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE SHA TIN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 2 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL
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TO FACILITATE ROADWORKS, THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF QUEEN VICTORIA STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL TO A POINT ABOUT 26 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 14).

THIS MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS DURING WHICH NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREA.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE BUS TERMINUS OF ROUTE 720 WILL BE TEMPORARILY RELOCATED TO QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL OUTSIDE LANE CRAWFORD HOUSE.

MOREOVER, ROUTE 720 ON ITS JOURNEYS TO CENTRAL WILL BE DIVERTED VIA QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL. ITS BUS STOP ON WESTBOUND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL OUTSIDE LANDMARK WILL BE SUSPENDED AND A TEMPORARY STOP WILL BE PROVIDED ON QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL OUTSIDE BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

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RESTRICTED ZONES IN ABERDEEN AND CENTRAL
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THE FOLLOWING TWO ROAD SECTIONS IN ABERDEEN WILL BE DESIGNATED AS 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY RESTRICTED ZONES FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 14):

- * ABERDEEN OLD MAIN STREET FROM A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH YUE FAI ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 12 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- * YUE FAI ROAD FROM A POINT ABOUT 12 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH ABERDEEN OLD MAIN STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 17 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF EASTBOUND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, BETWEEN ITS WESTERN JUNCTION WITH HARBOUR VIEW STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 110 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL ALSO BE DESIGNATED AS A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY RESTRICTED ZONE FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS FOR ROADWORKS.

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

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1988

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH POINT

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THE SECTION OF KING MING ROAD IN NORTH POINT BETWEEN GLASS STREET AND WATSON ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 13).

AT THE SAME TIME, VEHICLES ON THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF WATSON ROAD WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT INTO ELECTRIC ROAD.

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