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TERTIARY SERVICES MAY BE TAKING UP EMPLOYMENT SLACK

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THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED STEADY AT ABOUT 3.4 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1982 BUT PROBABLY INCREASED TO AROUND FOUR PER CENT IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR JACOBS REPORTED THAT DURING THE YEAR UNDEREMPLOYMENT ALSO INCREASED AND A FAIRLY ACCURATE FIGURE WOULD SOON BE AVAILABLE FROM NEW QUESTIONS INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, WHO HAD ASKED ABOUT THE ANTICIPATED NUMBER OF FACTORY CLOSURES AND THE LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE PERIOD UP TO THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, +IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT STATE OF THE ECONOMY.+

MR JACOBS POINTED TO TWO INDICATORS RELEVANT TO MR CHEUNG'S QUESTION:

* IN OCTOBER, WHICH IS THE LAST MONTH FOR WHICH COMPLETE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE, ORDERS IN HAND IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR COVERED AN AVERAGE OF 3.7 MONTHS, DOWN FROM 4.1 MONTHS IN OCTOBER 1981.

* IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1982, RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECLINED BY FIVE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS FROM THE SAME PERIOD IN 1981.

+TAKING THESE FIGURES TOGETHER, THERE IS THE SUGGESTION OF LESS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OR SHORTER WORKING HOURS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

+BUT TO ATTEMPT TO GO FURTHER IN RELATING THESE FIGURES TO UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD BE TO ENTER INTO THE FIELD OF SPECULATION,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THIS WAS PARTICULARLY SO BECAUSE OF OTHER FACTORS THAT MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AMONG THEM THE TREND OF INCREASING EMPLOYMENT IN THE TERTIARY SERVICES SECTORS WHICH WAS NOTICEABLE LAST YEAR.

+IT APPEARS THAT SOME WORKERS WHO LOST THEIR JOBS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, WERE ABLE TO FIND ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT IN THE TERTIARY SERVICES SECTORS, SUCH AS THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

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VULNERABILITY OF REGISTERED DTC'S GREATLY REDUCED
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SHORT-TERM DEPOSITS OF REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES HAVE BEEN ENORMOUSLY REDUCED, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

DEPOSITS OF DTC'S WITHOUT BANK AFFILIATION A MONTH AGO STOOD AT $400 MILLION, DOWN FROM $4 BILLION IN MID-1981, AND THE DOWNWARD MOVEMENT WOULD CLEARLY CONTINUE, MR BREMRIDGE SAID.

THIS +SEA-CHANGE+ HAD CONSIDERABLY REDUCED THE VULNERABILITY OF REGISTERED DTC'S TO POSSIBLE PUBLIC CONCERN OVER SHORT-TERM DEPOSITS WITH THEM, HE STATED.

MR BREMRIDGE WAS REPLYING TO THE HON PETER C. WONG, WHO HAD ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE AN UP-TO-DATE ASSESSMENT OF THE THREE-TIER MONETARY SYSTEM INTRODUCED IN JULY 1981 AND TO SAY WHETHER IT HAD ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVES.

MR BREMRIDGE EXPLAINED THAT AS THE SYSTEM WAS STILL IN TRANSITION, IT WAS PREMATURE TO ATTEMPT A FULL ASSESSMENT.

+MOREOVER AT THIS PARTICULAR JUNCTURE IT WOULD BE VERY IMPRUDENT FOR ME TO RISK BEING MISINTERPRETED, WHICH COULD CONSEQUENTLY PREJUDICE THE COMMENDABLE EFFORTS WHICH THE WHOLE FINANCIAL SECTOR IS AT PRESENT MAKING TO RESOLVE ITS OWN PROBLEMS AND THOSE OF ITS CUSTOMERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE PROPERTY SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

BUT HE REMINDED MR WONG THAT THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE SYSTEM, AS EXPLAINED BY THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SOUGHT TO OBVIATE THE LIKELIHOOD OF A +DANGEROUSLY DESTABILISING SITUATION DEVELOPING BETWEEN DIFFERENT GROUPS OF INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE MONETARY SECTOR+.

IN THIS CONTEXT, MR BREMRIDGE SAID, HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE ENORMOUS REDUCTION OF SHORT-TERM DEPOSITS WITH REGISTERED DTC'S.

HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT LICENCES HAD BEEN GRANTED TO 22 COMPANIES WHICH HAD APPLIED FOR THE NEW STATUS CREATED LAST YEAR OF LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY.

THESE COMPANIES, HE SAID, HAD ALL MET THE EXACTING CRITERIA SET DOWN.

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DRIVING LICENCES MAY SOON NO LONGER BE PROOF OF IDENTITY

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DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR A RESOLUTION UNDER SECTION 17B (2) OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE TO DELETE +CURRENT DRIVING LICENCE+ FROM THE LIST OF DOCUMENTS WHICH MAY BE USED AS PROOF OF IDENTITY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON D.G. JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON F.K. HU, WHO ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED THAT +IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT DRIVING LICENCES IN THEIR PRESENT FORMAT CAN BE FORGED,+ A DRIVING LICENCE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE PROOF OF IDENTITY FOR IMMIGRATION PURPOSES.

ANSWERING ANOTHER QUESTION BY MR HU, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT IT WAS RECKONED THAT ABOUT 95 PER CENT OF THE DUPLICATE LICENCES ISSUED LAST YEAR WERE REPLACEMENTS FOR LOST LICENCES, RATHER THAN FOR DAMAGED ONES.

+IN OTHER WORDS, ROUGHLY 30 300,+ HE SAID.

DURING THE YEAR, TWO COUNTERFEIT LICENCES WERE DETECTED, HE ADDED.

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NEED FOR TAX RECEIPTS EXPLAINED

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THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT DID NOT CALL FOR DOCUMENTARY PROOF WHICH WAS EASILY VERIFI ABLE FROM DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON JOHN BREMRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

BUT PROPERTY TAX AND INTEREST TAX RECEIPTS HAD TO BE SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL ASSESSMENT RELIEF, MR BREMRIDGE SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG LAM.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE CASE OF PROPERTY TAX, THE RECEIPTS WERE NECESSARY TO VERIFY THAT THE TAX HAD INDEED BEEN PAID BY THE LANDLORD CLAIMING PERSONAL ASSESSMENT, AND NOT BY THE TENANT.

IN THE CASE OF INTEREST TAX, THIS WAS AGAIN NECESSARY TO VERIFY THAT THE TAX HAD BEEN PAID BY THE PERSON CLAIMING PERSONAL ASSESSMENT.

+THE RETURNS OF INTEREST TAX DEDUCTED BY BANKS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS COMPRISE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF COMPUTER PRINT-OUT SHEETS. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CHECK EVERY INDIVIDUAL CASE WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL STAFF RESOURCES,+ MR BREMRIDGE SAID.

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SMALL INCREASE IN UNLICENSED HAWKING

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THERE WAS A SMALL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF UNLICENSED HAWKERS DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS BUT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO GIVE THE CAUSE FOR THIS INCREASE, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+SOME ARGUE THAT AN INCREASE IN UNLICENSED HAWKING IS CAUSED BY THE DIFFICULTY OF FINDING OTHER WORK: OTHERS THAT IT IS IN TIMES OF PROSPERITY WHEN PEOPLE HAVE MORE TO SPEND THAT UNLICENSED HAWKING INCREASES,+ MR BRAY SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHARLES YEUNG, MR BRAY EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT SEASONAL FACTORS WERE AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON THE EXTENT OF HAWKING.

WITH THE END OF THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING PERIOD, UNLICENSED HAWKING WAS NOW DECREASING; BUT IT COULD BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE VERY SUBSTANTIALLY WITH THE APPROACH OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR. AFTER THAT, THERE WOULD BE A BIG DROP AGAIN.

+THESE CHANGES TAKE PLACE EVERY YEAR, AND SUGGEST THAT IT IS OPPORTUNITY RATHER THAN DESPERATION WHICH HAS THE STRONGER EFFECT,+ MR BRAY SAID. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT KEEP RECORDS OF THE NUMBER OF UNLICENSED HAWKERS OR OF THE REASONS FOR THEIR HAWKING, IT DID NEVERTHELESS ATTEMPT TO GET AN ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER PERIODICALLY.

INDICATIONS WERE THAT THERE WAS A SMALL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER, HE SAID.

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EDUCATION SEEN AS BEST APPROACH

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THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE BEST APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF THROWING OBJECTS FROM HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS LIES IN EDUCATING THE PUBLIC, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

TO THIS END, HE SAID, A GOVERNMENT +ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST+ WAS BROADCAST REGULARLY ON TELEVISION AND OVER THE RADIO, WARNING OF THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES WHICH MIGHT ARISE AND THE PENALTIES WHICH MIGHT BE IMPOSED FOR SUCH CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR.

+THE TELEVISION FILM ON THIS IS PARTICULARLY FORCEFUL: IT SHOWS HOW A BOTTLE, THROWN FROM A WINDOW OF AN UPPER-FLOOR FLAT BY A SELFISH PERSON, HITS HIS DAUGHTER PLAYING BELOW, FATALLY INJURING HER,+ HE SAID.

/IN REPLY .....

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO, MR AKERS-JONES SAID THIS TERRITORY-WIDE PUBLICITY THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY INTENSIVE AND SUSTAINED EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

+DISTRICT OFFICERS AND THEIR STAFF ARE IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS, OWNERS CORPORATIONS, AND OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS TO ENLIST THEIR HELP IN BRINGING HOME THE MESSAGE.

+IN ADDITION, DISTRICT OFFICERS ALSO DISTRIBUTE APPEAL LETTERS, LEAFLETS, POSTERS AND BANNERS TO LOCAL RESIDENTS AND ORGANISATIONS TO ENSURE MAXIMUM SPREAD OF THE MESSAGE,+ HE REPORTED.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS DANGEROUS PRACTICE AND THAT DISTRICT OFFICERS WOULD CONTINUE TO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE TASK OF EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT IT.

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CASH FOR CLEARED SQUATTER WORKSHOP OPERATORS

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OPERATORS OF SQUATTER WORKSHOPS RECEIVE GENEROUS EX-GRATIA CASH COMPENSATION UPON DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCES AND MOST ARE ABLE TO FIND ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HARRY FANG.

MR LIAO SAID THAT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, ONLY EIGHT PER CENT OF SQUATTER WORKSHOPS CLEARED REQUIRED REPROVISIONING IN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S FLATTED FACTORIES.

+THERE ARE NO GROUNDS TO OFFER THIS SMALL MINORITY EXTRA CONCESSIONS IN THE FORM OF RENT BELOW MARKET LEVEL,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID FLATTED FACTORY RENTS HAD BEEN SET AT MARKET LEVEL BY PUTTING OUT A NUMBER OF UNITS TO TENDER, TO ASSESS THE MARKET VALUE AS EACH NEW FACTORY BUILDING WAS COMPLETED.

+THIS METHOD IS USED BECAUSE THE TYPE OF SMALL, SPECIALLY DESIGNED UNITS EACH WITH A FLOOR SPACE OF 25 SQUARE METRES PRODUCED BY THE AUTHORITY ARE NOT GENERALLY AVAILABLE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND THERE IS THEREFORE NO BASIS FOR ASSESSING COMPARABLE RENTS.+ HE SAID.

MR LIAO SAID IT WAS THE INTENTION THAT RENTS FOR FACTORY BUILDINGS SHOULD IN FUTURE BE UPDATED BY TENDERING EXERCISES AT REGULAR INTERVALS.

+THUS, ANY MOVEMENT IN MARKET RENT WILL BE REFLECTED IN TENDERS RECEIVED, WHICH WILL IN TURN SET THE LEVEL FOR NEW RENTS,+ HE SAID.

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HELP FOR STREET SLEEPERS

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PRIORITY IN ALLOCATION OF ACCOMMODATION TO STREET SLEEPERS HAD TO BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO ARE ELDERLY OR DISABLED, AND STEADY PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN REHOUSING THEM, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 1 000 STREET SLEEPERS IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

+THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, TOGETHER WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, ALREADY PROVIDES SERVICES TO THOSE STREET SLEEPERS WHO ARE IN NEED AND WHO ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT HELP,+ MR ALLEYNE SAID.

THESE SERVICES INCLUDE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION, COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, REFERRALS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND COUNSELLING.

+OF THESE, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND ACCOMMODATION ARE THE TWO MAIN SERVICES PROVIDED. HOWEVER, PUBLIC HOUSING IS OFTEN NOT AVAILABLE IN LOCATIONS SUCH AS YAU MA TEI, EASTERN AND WAN CHAI, SHAM SHUI PO AND WESTERN DISTRICTS WHERE MOST STREET SLEEPERS ARE TO BE FOUND,+ HE SAID.

MR ALLEYNE SAID HE BELIEVED THERE WERE ALREADY ADEQUATE LEGAL POWERS TO CLEAR AWAY RUBBISH CREATED BY STREET SLEEPERS AND TO REMOVE ANY OF THEM CAUSING OBSTRUCTIONS OR DISTURBING THE PEACE.

+BUT THE RESULTS IN THE END WOULD STILL BE THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO SLEEP OUTDOORS SOMEWHERE UNLESS THEY CAN BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT THE OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE MADE TO THEM, AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO TRY AND DO THIS,+ HE SAID.

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REDEVELOPMENT OF PRE-WAR BUILDINGS

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THE LONG-TERM ANSWER TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OF OLD RESIDENTIAL AREAS IS THEIR REDEVELOPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH TOWN PLANS, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG PO-YAN, HE SAID THAT WHILE THE PRESENT PRE-WAR BUILDINGS WITH THEIR INADEQUATE SANITATION CONTINUE TO EXIST, THE BEST THAT COULD BE DONE WAS TO SEE THAT GOVERNMENT AND URBAN COUNCIL SERVICES WOULD OPERATE IN THESE AREAS AS EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE.

/IN ADDITION .....

IN ADDITION TO THIS REGULAR ATTENTION, HE POINTED OUT THAT TAI PAK TERRACE AND KWONG HON TERRACE IN WESTERN DISTRICT MENTIONED BY MR WONG HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS IN THE RECENT CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN.

+THE STREETS THEMSELVES ARE PRIVATELY OWNED AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME IMPROVEMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT WOULD ALSO BE ACHIEVED IF THEY WERE PUBLICLY OWNED.

+THE PROBLEMS OF MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE THAT PRIVATE STREETS POSE IS CURRENTLY BEING EXAMINED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

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TUEN MUN -- 'A MASSIVE AND EXCITING ENTERPRISE'

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ALTHOUGH TUEN MUN IS 32 KILOMETRES AWAY FROM THE OLDER URBAN AREAS, A LONG WAY IN HONG KONG TERMS, ATTITUDES ARE CHANGING AND INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE NEW TOWN IS BECOMING A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE AND BRING UP A FAMILY.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, MADE THIS OBSERVATION IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI ON THE POPULATION BUILD-UP, TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENTS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN TUEN MUN.

DESCRIBING THE NEW TOWN AS +A MASSIVE AND EXCITING ENTERPRISE+ HE SAID THAT ITS PRESENT POPULATION OF JUST UNDER 200 000 WOULD INCREASE AT AN AVERAGE OF SOME 40 000 PEOPLE PER ANNUM OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, OF WHOM 30 000 WOULD BE ACCOMMODATED IN PUBLIC HOUSING EACH YEAR.

ON TRANSPORT, MR MACPHERSON SAID THE ROAD NETWORK WAS GENERALLY ON TIME AND MAJOR ROAD WORKS WERE CONTINUING ON SCHEDULE.

STRESSING THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY SERIOUS DELAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, HE SAID THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY WOULD BE FULLY DUAL THREE-LANE VERY SHORTLY.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS AT THIS STAGE OF THE NEW TOWN'S DEVELOPMENT WERE BEING MET BY MORE THAN 10 BUS ROUTES, HOVERFERRY SERVICE, AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, CARRYING A TOTAL OF SOME 130 000 PEOPLE A DAY.

/IN ADDITION, ...

IN ADDITION, HE SAID FURTHER BUS ROUTES TO THE LARGER ESTATES WERE PLANNED, AND THE CAPACITY OF THE HOVERFERRY SERVICE WOULD BE DOUBLED WHEN THE NEW PIER FACILITIES WERE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR.

+AS IS GENERALLY WELL KNOWN, THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN IS PLANNED TO HAVE A LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM AND IT REMAINS THE INTENTION TO PROVIDE SUCH A SYSTEM AND PLANNING FOR THIS CONTINUES ACTIVELY.+

REGARDING JOB OPPORTUNITIES, MR MACPHERSON SAID THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN TUEN MUN HAD INCREASED FOURFOLD OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, FROM 177 TO SOME 700, AND THE CORRESPONDING NUMBER OF JOBS IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR ALONE HAD MORE THAN DOUBLED FROM 8 000 TO 20 000.

+THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN PUBLICISING THE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN TUEN MUN AND ITS EFFORTS INCLUDE THE PUBLICATION OF AN INFORMATIVE PAMPHLET ON INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN TUEN MUN AND THE SETTING UP OF A COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH IS MONITORING DEVELOPMENT TO ENSURE THAT JOB OPPORTUNITIES ARE MATCHED AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH THE POPULATION BUILD-UP,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT OF 10 INDUSTRIAL SITES OFFERED FOR SALE SINCE AUGUST 1981, ONLY ONE WAS NOT SOLD BECAUSE OF EXTENSIVE SITE FORMATION WORK REQUIRED.

+BY NO MEANS ALL THE PRESENT GENERATION OF WORKERS MOVING INTO THE NEW TOWNS ARE EITHER ABLE TO OR INDEED WISH TO GIVE UP THEIR OLD JOBS AND WORK LOCALLY.

+NO DOUBT THIS WILL CHANGE AS A NEW GENERATION GROWS UP AS PART OF THE NEW TOWNS, BUT IN THE MEANTIME THE AIM MUST BE TO PROVIDE A STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND A STEADY INCREASE IN JOB OPPORTUNITIES SO THAT THERE IS REASONABLE SCOPE BOTH FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO LIVE AND WORK LOCALLY AND FOR THOSE WHO OPT OR MUST COMMUTE TO WORK,+ HE SAID.

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EXTRA POLICE TO LOOK OUT FOR PICKPOCKETS ON TRAINS

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EXTRA POLICE WILL BE ON DUTY TO LOOK OUT FOR PICKPOCKETS AND OTHER CRIMINALS ON TRAINS AND AT STATIONS DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR RUSH, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON D.G. JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY.

IN ADDITION, PUBLICITY EFFORTS WILL BE INCREASED, ADVISING THE PUBLIC TO MAINTAIN THEIR GUARD AGAINST THE CRIMINAL ELEMENTS, TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR VALUABLES, NOT TO CARRY LARGE AMOUNTS OF CASH, AND TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO POLICE IF ANY CRIME OCCURS, MR JEAFFRESON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, WHO WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE INCREASE OF SUCH CRIMINAL ACTIVITY TO THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC, DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD.

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BILL TO PROVIDE FOR CONTROL OVER CAVERNS

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THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, WHICH AIMS TO EXTEND THE CONTROL OVER ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD, SAID THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAD RECEIVED ENQUIRIES FROM SEVERAL OIL COMPANIES REGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS WHICH SHOULD BE MET FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERGROUND CAVERNS FOR THE STORAGE OF OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

+SINCE SUCH CAVERNS ARE NOT AT PRESENT DEFINED AS BUILDINGS IN THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE THERE IS NO CONTROL OVER THEIR CONSTRUCTION OR ADAPTATION,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

IT HAD ALSO BEEN FOUND THAT THE EXISTING BUILDING (OIL STORAGE INSTALLATION) REGULATIONS, MADE IN 1978, DID NOT GIVE SUFFICIENT CONTROL OVER THE MAINTENANCE OF OIL STORAGE TANKS OR THE OPERATION OF OIL STORAGE INSTALLATIONS, HE ADDED.

THE NEW BILL WOULD THEREFORE GIVE THE BUILDING AUTHORITY CONTROL OVER CAVERNS CONSTRUCTED OR ADAPTED FOR THE STORAGE OF OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, AND WOULD ALSO GIVE THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL POWERS TO MAKE MORE STRINGENT REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF OIL STORAGE INSTALLATIONS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1981-82) BILL 1983

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THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1981-82) BILL 1983 SEEKS TO GIVE FINAL LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORISED BY RESOLUTIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID TODAY.

IN MOVING THE BILL THROUGH A SECOND READING, MR BREMRIDGE SAID IT WAS THE LAST STAGE IN DISPOSING OF EXPENDITURE INCURRED DURING THE 1981-82 FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE BILL, HE ADDED, ALSO SEEKS AN APPROPRIATION TO MEET EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHERE RECEIPTS APPROPRIATED-IN-AID FELL SHORT OF THE SUMS ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED.

THE TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION REQUIRED WAS $3 992 MILLION UNDER 53 HEADS, AS AGAINST SAVINGS OF $1 231 MILLION UNDER VARIOUS OTHER HEADS, MR BREMRIDGE SAID.

THE LARGEST ITEMS INVOLVED WERE $1 097 MILLION FOR LAND ACQUISITION, THE TRANSFER OF $408 MILLION TO THE MASS TRANSIT FUND, $407 MILLION FOR NEW TOWNS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, $350 MILLION FOR THE REACTIVATION AND OPERATION OF THE DESALTER AND $274 MILLION FOR EDUCATION SUBVENTIONS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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TWO BILLS PASSED

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TWO BILLS: THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 AND THE TRUSTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TWO OTHER BILLS, THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1981-82) BILL 1983 AND THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 WERE INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

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PAYMENTS OF SALARIES, PROFITS TAX

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TAXPAYERS ARE URGED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE TO CHECK THEIR DEMAND NOTES TO ENSURE THAT THE FIRST INSTALMENT OF THE TAX DUE IS PAID ON OR BEFORE THE SPECIFIED DUE DATE.

+IF THE FIRST INSTALMENT IS NOT SO PAID, THE SECOND INSTALMENT WILL AUTOMATICALLY BECOME DUE IMMEDIATELY. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY APPLIED AND PLEAS FOR OVERSIGHT WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IRD SAID.

IN ADDITION TO BOTH INSTALMENTS BECOMING IMMEDIATELY PAYABLE TOGETHER, WHERE TAX IS NOT PAID BY THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE NOTICE THE COMMISSIONER MAY ORDER A SUM NOT EXCEEDING 5 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL TAX BE ADDED. THIS SURCHARGE WILL ALSO BE IMMEDIATELY DUE FOR PAYMENT.

THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES ILLUSTRATE HOW THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL OPERATE :-

EXAMPLE 1

TOTAL TAX DUE	6.1.83	$22 000
PAYABLE ON	6.1.83	$17 000
PAYABLE ON	6.4.83	$ 5 000

IF $17 000 IS PAID ON 6.1.83, THE SECOND INSTALMENT OF $5 000 IS PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE 6.4.83.

EXAMPLE 2

TOTAL TAX PAYABLE		$22 000
PAYABLE ON	6.1.83	$17 000
PAYABLE ON	6.4.83	$ 5 000

IF $17 000 IS NOT PAID BY 6.1.83, THE WHOLE AMOUNT OF $22 000 PLUS SURCHARGE $1 100, THE TOTAL $23 100 IS IN DEFAULT AND ACTION TO RECOVER THE TOTAL AMOUNT WILL BE TAKEN SHORTLY AFTER 6.1.83.

IT IS EMPHASISED THEREFORE THAT TAXPAYERS WHO WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TWO INSTALMENTS SHOWN ON THE NOTE MUST ENSURE THAT THE FIRST PAYMENT IS MADE ON OR BEFORE THE DUE DATE SHOWN ON THEIR DEMAND NOTES. PAYMENT MAY BE MADE AT THE FOLLOWING COLLECTION OFFICES :-

HONG KONG - WINDSOR HOUSE, 3RD FLOOR, 311 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

KOWLOON - PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR, 56 DUNDAS STREET, MONG KOK, KOWLOON.

TSUEN WAN - FOU WAH CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 210 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

YOU MAY ALSO PAY BY POST BY SENDING A CROSSED CHEQUE MADE PAYABLE TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, ATTACHED TO YOUR DEMAND NOTE AND ADDRESSING IT TO THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, G.P.O. BOX 132, HONG KONG.

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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT MR RAYMON HARRY ANNING, HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTOR OF CONSTABULARY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM HOME OFFICE, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (OPERATIONS) OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.

MR ANNING, AGED 52, WAS A MEMBER OF THE LONDON METROPOLITAN POLICE BETWEEN 1952 AND 1979. HE WAS PROMOTED TO CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT IN 1969 AND PLACED IN COMMAND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM POLICE UNIT WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN ANGUILLA, WEST INDIES IN THAT YEAR.

ON RETURN FROM ANGUILLA HE COMMANDED THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DISCIPLINE OFFICE. HE WAS PROMOTED IN 1972 TO THE RANK OF COMMANDER AND WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF A10 BRANCH OF SCOTLAND YARD WHICH DEALS WITH ALL SERIOUS COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE. IN 1975 HE WAS PROMOTED TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER AND BECAME SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE LONDON METROPOLITAN POLICE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT.

IN 1979 HE WAS APPOINTED AS ONE OF HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORS OF CONSTABULARY WITH THE ROLE OF INSPECTION OF BRITISH POLICE FORCES AND ADVISING THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON POLICE MATTERS, DUTIES WHICH HE IS STILL PERFORMING.

IN 1975 MR ANNING WAS AWARDED THE QUEEN'S POLICE MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AND IN 1982 HE WAS MADE A COMMANDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. IN 1980 HE WAS ADMITTED TO THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AS A COMPANION.

MR ANNING WILL TAKE UP HIS NEW APPOINTMENT IN HONG KONG IN JUNE 1983. HE WILL SUCCEED MR PETER MOOR, WHO WILL BE RETIRING AFTER 34 YEARS OF SERVICE IN HONG KONG.

MR ANNING IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN.

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GOOD RESPONSE TO METRIC POSTER COMPETITION

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MORE THAN 700 ENTRIES WERE RECEIVED FOR A POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE METRICATION COMMITTEE.

THE AIM OF THE COMPETITION, WHICH WAS DIVIDED INTO A SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS SECTION AND AN OPEN SECTION, WAS TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE USE OF METRIC UNITS IN DAILY LIFE.

THE COMPETITION FORMS PART OF THE SPECIAL PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN +METRIC 10 DAYS+ WHICH RUNS FROM JANUARY 14 TO 23.

/WINNING ENTRIES .....

WINNING ENTRIES WERE SELECTED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY A PANEL OF JUDGES COMPRISING MR J.H. HENDERSON OF THE METRICATION COMMITTEE, MR YEUNG WAI-FUNG OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND MR AGAY NG OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES.

CHAN HO-CHUNG RECEIVED FIRST PRIZE FOR THE BEST DESIGN IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS SECTION, WHILE THOMAS YU HOU-MING WAS THE OVERALL WINNER IN THE OPEN SECTION. THEIR PRIZES WILL BE GIFT TOKENS VALUED AT $500 AND $1 000 RESPECTIVELY.

THE TWO WINNERS, TOGETHER WITH THE RUNNERS UP, WILL BE PRESENTED WITH THEIR PRIZES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE +METRIC 10 DAYS+ CAMPAIGN TO BE HELD AT THE WORLD-WIDE PLAZA, CENTRAL ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 14).

ALL THE WINNING ENTRIES OF THE COMPETITION WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE WORLD-WIDE PLAZA DURING THE 10 DAYS.

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DISTRICT BOARD TO DISCUSS PARKING FACILITIES

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THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING PARKING FACILITIES IN THE PROPOSED SAI YEE STREET MARKET BUILDING WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MONGKOK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A PLAN TO RESITE EXISTING ON-STREET COOKED-FOOD STALLS TO OFF-STREET SITES IN THE AREA.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE THE MONGKOK STRATEGY 1982-85, DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES ON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MATTERS, AND PLANTING OF TREES AND SHRUBS IN PARKS AND GARDENS.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 7) WHEN MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT OF TAI PO TOWN CENTRE.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE NEW EDITION OF THE TAI PO NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN VILLAGE CLEANING.

NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER (I) THE MONGKOK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT 3 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE AT 490-492 NATHAN ROAD; AND (II) THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 9.30 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 7) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO. A 14-SEATER GOVERNMENT VAN, AM 5797, WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER FOR TAI PO AT 8.30 AM.

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+SATELLITE OFFICES+ FOR CONVENIENCE OF PUBLIC

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD WILL EXTEND ITS +MEET THE PUBLIC+ SCHEME TO COVER THE MORE REMOTE AREAS IN THE DISTRICT.

AT PRESENT, DB MEMBERS ARE MEETING THE PUBLIC EVERY TUESDAY BETWEEN 7 PM AND 9 PM AT THE LEK YUEN DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT OFFICE.

FROM TOMORROW, DB MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO SEE LOCAL RESIDENTS EVERY THURSDAY EVENING DURING THE SAME HOURS AT ONE OF FIVE NEW +SATELLITE OFFICES+.

THE ADDITIONAL NEW OFFICES ARE SIU LEK YUEN YORK VILLAGE OFFICE, MEI LAM ESTATE OFFICE, SHA KOK ESTATE OFFICE, SUN TIN WAI COMMUNITY HALL, AND FO TAN YORK SEVEN VILLAGES UNITED VILLAGE OFFICE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE SAID TODAY THAT THE EXTENDED SERVICE WOULD MAKE IT MORE CONVENIENT FOR LOCAL PEOPLE TO DISCUSS WITH DB MEMBERS THEIR PROBLEMS OR PUT FORWARD SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

PEOPLE WISHING TO SEE DB MEMBERS ON EITHER DAY AT ANY OF THE OFFICES SHOULD MAKE APPOINTMENTS IN ADVANCE BY TELEPHONING O-6049714 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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ALL TUEN MUN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR SITES SOLD

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ALL 100 SITES AT THE FORTHCOMING TUEN MUN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR WERE SOLD AT A PUBLIC AUCTION TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE HIGHEST PRICE FOR A SITE SELLING FLOWERS WAS $850 AND FOR A SITE SELLING DRY GOODS WAS $600.

THE LOWEST PRICE FOR A SITE SELLING FLOWERS WAS $300 AND FOR A SITE SELLING DRY GOODS WAS $310. THE UPSET PRICE FOR EACH STALL SITE WAS $75.

TODAY'S AUCTION, CONDUCTED BY THE TUEN MUN URBAN SERVICES OFFICE, WAS HELD AT THE TAI HING COMMUNITY HALL IN TAI HING ESTATE.

THE FAIR WILL BE HELD AT TUEN MUN SAN HUI PLAYGROUND FROM FEBRUARY 6 TO 13.

ANOTHER AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE FANLING SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX TOMORROW AT 9.30 AM FOR 113 SITES AT THE SHEUNG SHUI LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR TO BE HELD AT SHEK WU HUI PLAYGROUND.

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PLB CLEARWAYS IN WAN CHAI

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LANDALE STREET IN WAN CHAI WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 7).

THE SAME ARRANGEMENT WILL APPLY TO THE WESTBOUND SECTION OF HENNESSY ROAD BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND LANDALE STREET.

WITHIN THESE SECTIONS, ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS FROM 7 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY.

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