



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, JULY 23, 1984

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MONDAY, JULY 23, 1984

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LEGCO TO MEET ON TWO DAYS RUNNING

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL MEET FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS THIS WEEK -- TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AND WEDNESDAY.

THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE UP TWO ADJOURNMENT DEBATES: ONE ON +SOCIAL SYSTEM AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG+, TO BE RAISED BY DR THE HON HARRY FANG TOMORROW, AND THE OTHER, ON +FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT+, TO BE RAISED BY THE HON T.S. LO ON WEDNESDAY.

THERE WILL BE FIVE QUESTIONS BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TOMORROW, COVERING SUCH SUBJECTS AS DISCLOSURE OF TRANSACTIONS BY PUBLIC COMPANIES, THE ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING PILOT SCHEME, PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES AND THE ILLEGAL USE OF SOFT DRUGS BY YOUTHS.

IN ADDITION, DEBATE WILL RESUME ON THE FOLLOWING NINE BILLS PRIOR TO FINAL READING: INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1984, RATING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984, LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984, BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, FIXED PENALTY (CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984, LIMITATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 AND TATTOOING OF YOUNG PERSONS BILL 1984.

ON WEDNESDAY, NINE QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED BY UNOFFICIALS, DEALING WITH TOPICS RANGING FROM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, THE RATIO OF GOVERNMENT CONSULTANT OPHTHALMOLOGIST AND EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SURGEONS TO THE POPULATION, AND POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAMMES TO THE PROVISION OF FRESH FROZEN PLASMA, CIVIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, CORPORAL PUNISHMENT FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIONABLE AND INDECENT PUBLICATIONS ON SALE.

ALSO, NINE BILLS ARE DUE FOR FINAL READING AFTER RESUMED DEBATE. THEY ARE: CHINESE VISA OFFICE (PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES) BILL 1984, CONVEYANCING AND PROPERTY BILL 1984, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, JURY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, DISTRICT BOARDS AND URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1984, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984, BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, FOREIGN MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 AND LEGITIMACY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984.

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GOVERNOR LEAVES FOR PEKING

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, LEFT FOR PEKING THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON TO TAKE PART IN ANOTHER ROUND OF SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

SIR EDWARD WAS SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ROGER LOBO; AND THE VICE-CHIEF EDITOR OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY (HONG KONG BRANCH), MR TAN GAN.

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MONDAY, JULY 23, 1984

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TWO CONSERVATIVE MP'S DUE TOMORROW
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TWO CONSERVATIVE MP'S ARE DUE TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG TOMORROW (TUESDAY) FOR A NINE-DAY VISIT.

DURING THEIR VISIT, MR STEFAN TERLEZKI AND MR HENRY BELLINGHAM WILL ATTEND A BRIEFING BY THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS WELL AS DINNER RECEPTIONS HOSTED BY THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION.

THEY WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED BY UMELCO DUTY MEMBERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

THEY WILL VISIT THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS CARE AND ATTENTION HOME FOR THE AGED, THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE AND KWUN TONG DISTRICT.

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COMMENTS ON GREEN PAPER INVITED
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MORE THAN 100 000 COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE GIS PUBLICATIONS CENTRES FOR PUBLIC CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT.

SEVERAL HUNDRED ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS COVERING ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY HAVE ALSO BEEN SENT COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER DIRECT AND HAVE BEEN INVITED TO COMMENT ON IT.

CNTA STAFF WILL BE COLLECTING COMMENTS ON THE GREEN PAPER FROM THE DISTRICT BOARDS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OTHER DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS.

COMMENTS BY OTHER GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS AND BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE SENT DIRECTLY TO:

DIRECTOR, COUNCILS AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH,
ROOM 513, 5TH FLOOR,
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MAIN WING,
LOWER ALBERT ROAD,
HONG KONG.

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GOING ON U.S. STUDY TOUR

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TEN TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED STATES ON A TWO-WEEK STUDY TOUR TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR THOMAS CHAN, THE GROUP WILL VISIT SAN FRANCISCO, CHICAGO, WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK TO SEE LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR ANCILLARY COMMUNITY FACILITIES WHICH WILL BE HELPFUL TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF TAI PO NEW TOWN.

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YOUNG BRITONS SEEING HONG KONG

SIX BRITONS CURRENTLY IN HONG KONG UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME TODAY (MONDAY) BEGAN THEIR THREE-WEEK ACTIVITIES OF MEETING PEOPLE AND VISITING PLACES.

THEY WERE FIRST BRIEFED ON THE WORK OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION BY PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, MR BOWEN LEUNG, AND ON DEVELOPMENTS OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, MRS MAUREEN YANG.

THE GROUP, FROM THE COUNTY OF SOUTH GLAMORGAN, LATER VISITED THE CITY HALL TO SEE VARIOUS FACILITIES, AND THE SPACE MUSEUM.

THE GROUP IS LED BY MISS NICOLA SALTER, AND ITS OTHER MEMBERS ARE MISS CLAIRE DAVY, MR GERALD DUNNE, MISS JENNIE GARDNER, MISS SUE HUNT AND MR ANDREW THOMAS.

THEY ARRIVED OVER THE WEEKEND AND WERE MET BY THE SIX HONG KONG PARTICIPANTS WHO VISITED BRITAIN LAST YEAR UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

MR LEUNG SAID THAT THE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME WAS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING MEANINGFUL CONTACT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

+IT WILL ENABLE THEM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR NEIGHBOURS IN THE COMMONWEALTH THROUGH BILATERAL EXCHANGE VISITS WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION AND SHARING OF IDEAS, EXPERIENCES AND CULTURE AND PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING AMONG THEM,+ HE SAID.

+HONG KONG FIRST PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAMME IN 1977 ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS, WITH THE BRITISH ORGANISER UNDERTAKING TO ACT AS HOST FOR A GROUP OF SIX YOUNG PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG IN ONE YEAR AND HONG KONG HOSTING A SIMILAR PROGRAMME FOR SIX BRITONS THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

/+SO FAR,

+SO FAR, 24 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG HAVE VISITED THE UNITED KINGDOM UNDER THE SCHEME WHICH IS INITIATED AND CO-ORDINATED BY THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH EXCHANGE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH TWO-WAY EXCHANGE LINKS BETWEEN LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES IN BRITAIN AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.+

THE CNTA IS CO-ORDINATING THE CURRENT THREE-WEEK PROGRAMME FOR THE GROUP. IT INCLUDES VISITS TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, COUNTRY PARKS AND SPORTS FACILITIES, RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL CENTRES, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HOUSING COMPLEXES, PUBLIC UTILITY AND COMMERCIAL FIRMS, SOCIAL WELFARE GROUPS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS.

THEY WILL ALSO SEE DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW TOWNS AND VISIT OTHER AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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HOUSEHOLD DENSITIES PUBLISHED
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THREE-FIFTHS OF THE HOUSEHOLDS IN PRIVATE HOUSING OCCUPIED A LIVING AREA OF UNDER 37 SQUARE METRES, A CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SURVEY SHOWED.

THE SURVEY, CONDUCTED IN THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1983, FOCUSED ON OCCUPATION DENSITIES IN PRIVATE HOUSING.

THERE WERE 704 000 HOUSEHOLDS IN THIS HOUSING, COMPRISING 328 000 OWNER-OCCUPIERS, 71 000 RENT-FREE OR RENT-SUBSIDISED HOUSEHOLDS, 110 000 SOLE-TENANTS, 36 000 MAIN-TENANTS, 67 000 CO-TENANTS AND 92 000 SUB-TENANTS.

LESS THAN ONE-FIFTH OF THE HOUSEHOLDS HAD AN OCCUPATION DENSITY OF UNDER FOUR SQUARE METRES PER PERSON, THE SURVEY SHOWED.

+LIVING AREA+ IN THE SURVEY REFERS TO NET FLOOR AREA, EXCLUDING THE SERVICE AREAS OF THE KITCHEN, TOILET, BATHROOMS, CORRIDOR AND BALCONY.

A DENSITY OF FOUR SQUARE METRES PER PERSON WAS TAKEN AS THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN +OVERCROWDED+ AND +NON-OVERCROWDED+ HOUSEHOLDS, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

ONLY FOUR PER CENT OF OWNER-OCCUPIERS HAD A LIVING AREA OF LESS THAN FOUR SQUARE METRES PER PERSON, COMPARED WITH 10 PER CENT FOR RENT-FREE OR RENT-SUBSIDISED HOUSEHOLDS. BUT THE LATTER GROUP HAD THE LARGEST PROPORTION (24 PER CENT) OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH A LIVING AREA OF 74 SQUARE METRES OR MORE.

AS FOR SOLE-TENANTS, MORE THAN HALF OCCUPIED A LIVING AREA OF UNDER 37 SQUARE METRES AND LESS THAN ONE-TENTH HAD 74 SQUARE METRES OR MORE.

ONE-THIRD OF THE MAIN-TENANTS WERE OVERCROWDED, COMPARED WITH ABOUT 50 PER CENT FOR CO-TENANT AND SUB-TENANT HOUSEHOLDS.

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PUBLIC INTEREST GUIDES PLB CHOICES

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REFERRING TO THE RECENT PETITION TO THE GOVERNOR BY PLB OPERATORS IN THE SHA TAU KOK, LUK KENG AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES THAT THEY HAD BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN THE RECENT SELECTION OF NEW MAXICAB ROUTES AND THAT THEIR LIVELIHOOD IS BEING THREATENED, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

+IT HAS BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO INTRODUCE MAXICAB SERVICES IN AREAS WHERE LOCAL DEMAND FOR SUCH SERVICES EXISTS AND TO INVITE PLB OPERATORS TO APPLY TO OPERATE SUCH SERVICES. IN LATE 1983, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IDENTIFIED A NEED TO INTRODUCE TWO MAXICAB SERVICES IN THE SHA TAU KOK, LUK KENG AREAS. THEY ARE FROM LUK KENG TO FANLING LUEN WO HUI AND FROM SHA TAU KOK TO FANLING KCR STATION. THESE TWO SERVICES WERE PROPOSED IN RESPONSE TO LOCAL REQUESTS FOR A MORE REGULAR AND DEPENDABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE TO BE PROVIDED FOR RESIDENTS IN THESE AREAS. THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WAS CONSULTED IN ADVANCE IN DECEMBER 1983 AND GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THESE TWO SERVICES.

+THE SELECTION OF OPERATORS FOR ANY NEW MAXICAB SERVICE IS BY OPEN SELECTION AND ALL EXISTING PLB OPERATORS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY. IN APPLYING, PLB OPERATORS HAVE TO GIVE INFORMATION RELATING TO THEIR EXPERIENCE IN THE PLB AND MAXICAB TRADE, THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES THEY CAN SUPPLY, THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION AND OTHER SIMILAR, RELEVANT, INFORMATION. THESE APPLICATIONS ARE FIRST VETTED BY TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT STAFF AND ASSESSED ON A POINTS SYSTEM. THOSE OBTAINING HIGHER POINTS ARE THEN INVITED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE MAXICAB SELECTION BOARD.

+THE BOARD IS CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT AND HAS AS MEMBERS, AN UNOFFICIAL OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ICAC, CNTA, TRANSPORT BRANCH AND THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

+THE BOARD IN MAKING ITS FINAL DECISION, TAKES ALL FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT, BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT THE BOARD HAS TO BEAR IN MIND IS WHETHER THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT WILL BE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING A DEPENDABLE AND ADEQUATE SERVICE TO THE LOCAL RESIDENTS.

+NO ONE SINGLE FACTOR IS, HOWEVER, GIVEN PRIORITY BY THE BOARD IN REACHING ITS DECISION. IN THE CASE OF THE SHA TAU KOK, LUK KENG SERVICES, THE BOARD, AFTER TAKING ALL FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT AND AFTER INTERVIEWING THE PETITIONERS AND OTHER APPLICANTS, DECIDED TO AWARD THE MAXICAB SERVICES TO APPLICANTS WHO HAD SCORED HIGHER POINTS THAN THE PETITIONERS.

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+THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE BOARD ARE CAREFULLY CONDUCTED TO BE AS FAIR AS POSSIBLE. THE OVERALL PUBLIC INTEREST IS THE CARDINAL PRINCIPLE GUIDING THE WORK OF THE BOARD, AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF DISCRIMINATION.

+PLB OPERATORS WHO CLAIM THAT THEIR LIVELIHOOD IS THREATENED CAN STILL DO BUSINESS BY PLYING IN FANLING, SHEUNG SHUI AND TAI PO AND OTHER AREAS NOT DIRECTLY COVERED BY THE MAXICAB ROUTES. FURTHERMORE, PLB OPERATORS WHO LIVE IN VILLAGES FALLING WITHIN THE ROUTES COVERED BY THE MAXICAB SERVICES WILL BE GIVEN SPECIAL PERMISSION BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO TAKE THEIR VEHICLES HOME AFTER WORK PROVIDED THEY DO NOT PLY FOR BUSINESS EN ROUTE.+

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REPLY TO PLB STORY

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER SENT BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT TO THE EXPRESS IN RESPONSE TO AN ARTICLE BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC JUSTICE PUBLISHED IN THE PAPER ON JULY 16, 1984:

AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC JUSTICE AND PUBLISHED IN YOUR PAPER OF JULY 16 ACCUSES THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OF TREATING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS (PLB) OPERATORS UNFAIRLY. IT IS CLAIMED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ADOPTS A POLICY OF CONTINUING TO ISSUE PLB LICENCES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME INTRODUCING MORE AND MORE PLB PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.

THE ARTICLE IS OF COURSE OBVIOUSLY INCORRECT IN THAT THE GOVERNMENT CEASED ISSUING PLB LICENCES IN 1976, AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PLBS, WHICH INCLUDE PLBS ON NON-SCHEDULED SERVICES (RED PLBS) AND SCHEDULED SERVICES (GREEN MAXICABS), HAS REMAINED AT 4 350 SINCE 1976.

THE ARTICLE ALSO CONTAINS A NUMBER OF MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S PLB POLICY, AND I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY THE POSITION TO YOUR READERS.

THE PRESENT PLB POLICY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOLLOWING:

* PLBS ARE A POPULAR MODE OF TRANSPORT;

/* PLBS ARE

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- * PLBS ARE A USEFUL TRANSPORT MODE, PARTICULARLY IN SERVING AREAS AWAY FROM THE MAXIMUM DEMAND CORRIDORS, WHICH MAY BE INADEQUATELY SERVED BY OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF POTENTIAL PASSENGERS OR THE PHYSICAL NATURE OF THE ROADS;
- * PLBS ARE A RELATIVELY EXTRAVAGANT USER OF ROAD SPACE, BECAUSE OF THEIR LOW PASSENGER CARRYING CAPACITY, COMPARED WITH BUSES OR RAILWAYS.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE OF THE PLB AS PART OF HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT SYSTEM, THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY HAS BEEN NOT TO ISSUE ANY MORE PLB LICENCES SINCE 1976, AND TO ENCOURAGE MORE PLBS TO SERVE AREAS AWAY FROM THE MAXIMUM DEMAND CORRIDORS BY CONVERTING THEM INTO MAXICABS.

SOME PLB PROHIBITIONS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE MAXICAB SCHEME: WHEN A NEW MAXICAB SERVICE IS INTRODUCED, IT IS USUAL TO IMPOSE PROHIBITION ON RED PLBS IN THE AREAS IMMEDIATE TO THE TWO TERMINAL POINTS OF THE MAXICAB SERVICES. MAXICAB SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER ROUTING, TIMETABLE, FARE AND VEHICLE ALLOCATION AND WITHOUT THIS KIND OF PROTECTIVE MEASURE IN THEIR MAIN CATCHMENT AREAS, FEW MAXICAB SERVICES COULD SURVIVE. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE WHENEVER A MAXICAB SERVICE IS INTRODUCED AND ASSOCIATED PLB RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED, THE NUMBER OF RED PLBS OPERATING IN THE AREA DECREASES.

WHERE PLB RESTRICTIONS (I.E. NO PICKING UP/SETTING DOWN OF PASSENGERS) ARE CONCERNED, THESE ARE NORMALLY BROUGHT IN AS PART OF LOCAL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC FLOW. IN RECENT YEARS, FEW RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED TO REGULATE KERBSIDE ACTIVITIES OF PLBS ONLY; MOST RESTRICTIONS AIM AT REGULATING GENERAL TRAFFIC (I.E. ALL KINDS OF VEHICLES). MOREOVER, IT IS THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S PRACTICE TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE STOPPING PLACES FOR PLBS WHENEVER SUCH RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED. PLB RESTRICTIONS ARE ALSO BEING CONSTANTLY REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT. AS A MATTER OF FACT, A NUMBER OF RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN RELAXED RECENTLY AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS AT THE PLB OPERATORS' CONFERENCE, WHICH IS A REGULAR MEETING HELD BETWEEN PLB OPERATORS' ASSOCIATIONS AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

I HOPE THE ABOVE WILL HELP TO INFORM THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC JUSTICE OF THE FACTS AND YOUR READERS TO UNDERSTAND THE GOVERNMENT'S PLB POLICY.

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BOARD MEMBERS GIVEN RUN DOWN ON PLANNING PROCESS
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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD WAS TODAY GIVEN A VERY DETAILED RUN-DOWN ON THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR URBAN COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS.

THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, MISS ELLE SHUM, EXPLAINED TO BOARD MEMBERS THAT PROJECT PLANNING WAS A COMPLICATED AND TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS OFTEN INVOLVING UNCERTAINTIES AND THEREFORE REQUIRING FLEXIBILITY.

SHE EMPHASISED THAT TWO OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS INVOLVED WERE THE ACTUAL AVAILABILITY OF THE SITE -- WHICH IN MANY CASES MIGHT HAVE BEEN ZONED FOR THE COUNCIL'S USE BUT IN ACTUAL FACT STILL BE OCCUPIED BY PRIVATE PROPERTIES AND SQUATTERS WHO HAD FIRST TO BE CLEARED -- AND THE LEAD TIME NECESSARY FOR ESSENTIAL PREPARATORY WORK.

THIS LEAD TIME WAS THE PERIOD FROM THE TIME WHEN THE FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED ON THE SITE WAS DRAWN UP, TO THE TIME WHEN ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION BEGAN ON SITE.

+URBAN COUNCIL PROJECTS, AND GOVERNMENT PROJECTS FOR THAT MATTER, ARE DIFFERENT FROM PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS IN MANY RESPECTS INSOFAR AS THE PLANNING PROCESS IS CONCERNED,+ SHE SAID.

+THE RESOLVE TO UNDERTAKE FULL CONSULTATION WITH ALL CONCERNED AND THE NEED FOR PROCEDURES FOR FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL NECESSARILY DICTATE LONGER LEAD TIME AND MORE PROCEDURAL STEPS TO TAKE SUCH PROJECTS THROUGH THE VARIOUS PLANNING STAGES.

+FROM EXPERIENCE, CAPITAL PROJECTS NORMALLY REQUIRE A TIME SPAN OF THREE TO SIX YEARS FROM INITIAL PLANNING TO COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION, DEPENDING ON THE SCALE AND COMPLEXITY OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS.

+HOWEVER, MINOR PROJECTS CAN BE COMPLETED IN A MUCH SHORTER TIME SCALE OF BETWEEN ONE AND A HALF AND THREE YEARS.+

MISS SHUM WENT ON TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING BRIEF ON THE PLANNING PROCESS USED FOR THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS:

/PROCESS NO. 1

PROCESS NO. 1

THE PLANNING PROCESS NORMALLY BEGINS WITH THE RESERVATION OF SITES ON OUTLINE ZONING PLANS AND OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLANS. THESE PLANS ARE PREPARED BY THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE AND THEY FORM THE BASIS OF LAND ALLOCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE URBAN COUNCIL TO MEET ANTICIPATED NEED FOR PARTICULAR FACILITIES. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT A SITE HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR DEVELOPMENT DOES NOT NECESSARILY IMPLY THAT IT IS PHYSICALLY AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT. EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF RECLAIMED LAND, MOST OF THE SITES RESERVED FOR GOVERNMENT OR INSTITUTIONAL USE ARE OCCUPIED BY PRIVATE PROPERTIES, SQUATTERS, HOLDERS OF CROWN LAND LICENCES AND SHORT-TERM TENANCIES FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COSTS INVOLVED IN MAKING A SITE AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING RESUMPTION, CLEARANCE AND DEMOLITION WHICH ARE TO BE ARRANGED BY THE GOVERNMENT. BUT FREQUENTLY, DEVELOPMENT PLANS ARE UNABLE TO GO AHEAD DUE TO COMPLEXITIES ARISING FROM RESUMPTION OF THE SITE, ITS CLEARANCE AND DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES.

PROCESS NO. 2

WHEN A PIECE OF LAND ZONED ON A TOWN PLAN FOR URBAN COUNCIL FACILITIES IS EXPECTED TO BECOME AVAILABLE WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL INITIATE ACTION ON PLANNING FOR THE FACILITIES DESIGNATED. THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS THE URBAN COUNCIL'S AGENT FOR ALL ITS PROJECTS. A PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL LIMIT IS INITIALLY SET FOR THE PROJECT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CATEGORISING IT EITHER AS A CAPITAL OR MINOR WORKS PROJECT USING \$2 MILLION AS A DIVIDING LINE. FOR A CAPITAL PROJECT (I.E. ONE COSTING OVER \$2 M) THE DEPARTMENT WILL FIRST DRAW UP A PLANNING BRIEF SO AS TO ENABLE THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE TO UNDERTAKE PRELIMINARY STUDIES AND TO ADVISE ON THE FEASIBILITY OF PROCEEDING WITH THE PROJECT. IN SOME CASES, OTHER DEPARTMENTS MAY HAVE TO BE CONSULTED AT THIS STAGE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS CONCERNING VEHICULAR ACCESS, SITE BOUNDARY, ETC. UPON ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE'S CONFIRMATION THAT THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS FEASIBLE, APPROVAL IS SOUGHT FROM RELEVANT FUNCTIONAL SELECT COMMITTEES AND THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL TO FORMALLY CREATE AN ITEM IN THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME.

/PROCESS NO. 3

PROCESS NO. 3

AFTER A PROJECT IS INCLUDED IN THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME, THE DEPARTMENT DRAWS UP A SCHEDULE OF ACCOMMODATION (I.E. A LIST OF DETAILS OF THE FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED). IN CASES WHERE COMPLETELY NEW FACILITIES OR A VERY SPECIALISED FACILITY IS PROPOSED, CONSULTATION WITH ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS SPORTS ORGANISATIONS ABROAD ARE REQUIRED BEFORE THE SCHEDULE OF ACCOMMODATION CAN BE FINALISED. THE SCHEDULE IS THEN PRESENTED TO THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND DISTRICT BOARDS FOR COMMENT. THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS ASKED AT THE SAME TIME TO PROCESS LAND ALLOCATION.

PROCESS NO. 4

ON RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION OF LAND, THE LANDS DEPARTMENT CIRCULATES PRELIMINARY ALLOCATION PLAN AND DRAFT ENGINEERING CONDITIONS TO THE +WORKS+ DEPARTMENTS (E.G. BUILDING ORDINANCE OFFICE, HIGHWAYS OFFICE, WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, HOUSING DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT OFFICE, ETC.) FOR COMMENT. THE DEPARTMENT IS PROVIDED WITH THE FINAL ENGINEERING CONDITIONS AND A SITE DIMENSIONED PLAN WHEN THE ALLOCATION IS FINALISED. THEY SHOW THE BOUNDARY, CONFIGURATION, DIMENSION AND TOPOGRAPHY OF THE SITE CONCERNED, AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT CONDITIONS WHICH MUST BE COMPLIED WITH. THERE IS A HIGH RISK OF ABORTIVE WORK AND ABORTIVE COST TO PREPARE LAYOUT PLANS BEFORE AN ALLOCATION IS FINALISED. THUS AN INTERVAL INEVITABLY EXISTS BETWEEN ALLOCATION AND POSSESSION OF SITE; THE LATTER OCCURS ONLY WHEN THE SITE IS FREE FROM ALL ENCUMBRANCES FOR WORK TO START AT ANY TIME.

PROCESS NO. 5

WHEN A SCHEDULE OF ACCOMMODATION IS AGREED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, IT IS PRESENTED TO THE RELEVANT SELECT COMMITTEES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR ENDORSEMENT BEFORE REFERRING TO THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE FOR PREPARATION OF LAYOUT PLANS. SOMETIMES IT MAY OR MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO INCORPORATE ALL THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED. IN THE LATTER CASE, OTHER FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES MUST BE EXPLORED OR CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS MODIFIED. THESE LAYOUT PLANS WHEN AVAILABLE ARE CAREFULLY SCRUTINISED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO ASSESS WHETHER ALL THE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET. ON OCCASIONS, SEVERAL REVISIONS HAVE TO BE MADE TO THE LAYOUT PLANS BEFORE THEY ARE FINALISED FOR PRESENTATION TO DISTRICT BOARD. FURTHER REVISIONS MAY BE REQUIRED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMENTS.

/PROCESS NO. 6

PROCESS NO. 6

ON THE BASIS OF THE FINALISED LAYOUT PLANS, THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE PREPARES A ROUGH INDICATION OF COST OF THE PROJECT (RIC). IT IS ONLY AT THIS STAGE THAT A MORE RELIABLE ASSESSMENT OF COST CAN BE WORKED OUT AFTER THE EXACT FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED ARE DETERMINED. WHERE THE SITE PROBLEMS ARE THOUGHT TO BE LIKELY, AN INVESTIGATION HAS TO BE CARRIED OUT TO ASCERTAIN THE EXTENT OF GEOTECHNICAL OR SITE FORMATION WORK AND THE POSSIBLE FINANCIAL IMPLICATION BEFORE THE RIC IS FINALISED.

PROCESS NO. 7

THE LAYOUT PLAN AND RIC ARE THEN SUBMITTED TO THE RELEVANT SELECT COMMITTEES AND THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

PROCESS NO. 8

THEREAFTER, THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE PREPARES DETAILED WORKING DRAWINGS, COST ESTIMATE, TENDER AND CONTRACT DOCUMENT. PRIOR TO THE INVITATION OF TENDER, APPROVAL IS TO BE SOUGHT AGAIN FROM THE COUNCIL IF THE COST ESTIMATE EXCEEDS THE RIC. TENDER IS THEN GAZETTED. IF THE CONTRACT SUM EXCEEDS THE PROJECT ESTIMATE, FURTHER APPROVAL FROM THE COUNCIL IS REQUIRED BEFORE AWARD OF CONTRACT. WORK ON SITE THEN PROCEEDS UNTIL CONSTRUCTION IS COMPLETED.

FOLLOWING TODAY'S BRIEFING BY MISS SHUM, THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD AGREED TO ENDORSE THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT WITH SOME AMENDMENTS.

A COUNCIL SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE COUNCIL WAS GLAD TO CONSULT ALL OF THE URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS CONCERNING THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL DISTRICT, AND TRIED ITS UTMOST TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE ADVICE OF THE BOARDS, THE FINAL SAY STILL RESTED WITH THE COUNCIL, WHICH WAS ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS UNDER ITS CHARGE IN THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME.

CHEUNG CHAU RECLAMATION WORK PLANNED

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GOVERNMENT IS TO RECLAIM ABOUT THREE HECTARES OF LAND TO THE WEST OF TAI SHEK HAU ON CHEUNG CHAU ISLAND TO PROVIDE SITES FOR FACILITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISLAND'S DEVELOPMENT.

THE FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A PRIMARY SCHOOL, A BUILDING MATERIALS DEPOT, A LOADING AND UNLOADING AREA, A DANGEROUS GOODS STORE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

ALL OBJECTIONS AND CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING WITHIN TWO MONTHS TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS.

THE NOTICE, TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN, HAS BEEN POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG- AND AT ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, SINCERE BUILDING, 16TH FLOOR, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

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NEW FOUNTAIN FOR BOTANICAL GARDENS

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A NEW FOUNTAIN, A RESTAURANT AND OTHER GARDEN FACILITIES ARE AMONG ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS TO BE PROVIDED IN THE ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

THEY WILL BE BUILT ON THE RECONSTRUCTED ROOF OF THE SERVICE RESERVOIR WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN 1931. IT WAS DECIDED TO REBUILD THE ROOF WHEN CRACKS WERE FOUND IN IT FIVE YEARS AGO.

THE WORK WAS FINISHED EARLY THIS YEAR, AND THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS NOW INVITING TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A LARGER-SIZED FOUNTAIN WHICH WILL BE BRIGHTLY LIT, AN ORNAMENTAL GARDEN, A LIGHT REFRESHMENT RESTAURANT, TWO DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TOILETS AND A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT TO BE LOCATED NEAR THE ALBANY ROAD SIDE OF THE GARDEN.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN SEPTEMBER AND BE COMPLETED BY JUNE NEXT YEAR.

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MONDAY, JULY 23, 1984

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HAWKER CONTROL SCHEME BACKED

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SHOP TENANTS AT WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE TODAY PRESENTED A PENNANT TO THE ESTATE OFFICE IN APPRECIATION OF THE EFFORTS MADE BY HOUSING STAFF IN BRINGING ABOUT A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, A HAWKER CONTROL SCHEME HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED ON THE ESTATE WHICH SUCCESSFULLY CLEARED MOBILE HAWKERS.

+AS A RESULT OF THE CLEARANCE OF HAWKERS, OUR ESTATE HAS RESTORED ALL ITS TIDINESS AND TRANQUILITY, MUCH TO THE DELIGHT OF TENANTS, + SAID MR LAI KWOK-KEUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE SHOP AND SHOPSTALL OPERATORS' ASSOCIATION OF WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE.

+THE SCHEME HAS WON THE APPLAUSE OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AS WE ARE NOW FREE FROM ALL THE NUISANCES CREATED BY UNLICENSED HAWKERS, + HE SAID.

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MAKING YUEN LONG PRETTY

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EXTENSIVE LANDSCAPING IS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN YUEN LONG TO MAKE THE TOWN MORE BEAUTIFUL.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK ARE BEING INVITED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT BRANCH OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

FOOTPATHS, VERGES AND OPEN SPACES WILL BE LANDSCAPED UNDER THE PROJECT.

THE CONTRACT WILL ALSO INCLUDE CONSTRUCTING PLANTER BEDS AND PLANTING TREES AND SHRUBS OF VARIOUS SPECIES.

WORK WILL BEGIN IN OCTOBER AND TAKE 10 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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MONDAY, JULY 23, 1984

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WATER CUTS IN QUARRY BAY AND KWUN TONG
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN QUARRY BAY AND KWUN TONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (JULY 26) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN QUARRY BAY, THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES BOUNDED BY TONG CHONG STREET, HOI WAN STREET, HOI TAI STREET AND FINNIE STREET, AS WELL AS THOSE ON 865-961 KING'S ROAD.

IN KWUN TONG, THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY HIP WO STREET, TSUI PING ROAD AND HIU MING STREET, INCLUDING SUN ON HOUSE AND KIN ON HOUSE OF WO LOK ESTATE AS WELL AS TSUI YEUNG HOUSE, TSUI NAM HOUSE AND BLOCKS 7 TO 11 OF KWUN TONG (TSUI PING ROAD) ESTATE.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
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FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 25), VICTORIA ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH POK FU LAM ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES NORTHWEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ROAD WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, A TEMPORARY VEHICULAR ACCESS CONNECTING POK FU LAM ROAD AND VICTORIA ROAD WILL BE PROVIDED.

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WATER STORAGE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 81.0 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 474.757 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 511.575 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 87.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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