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LAND SUPPLY +MORE THAN ADEQUATE+

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THE EXISTING AND PLANNED LEVELS OF LAND SUPPLY ARE MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO MEET HONG KONG'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

THIS PROJECTION, CONTAINED IN THE 1984-85 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND SUPPLY PUBLISHED TODAY, IS IDENTICAL TO THE ONE MADE BY THE COMMITTEE IN ITS PREVIOUS REPORT.

IN ITS LATEST REPORT, THE COMMITTEE, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR BILL BROWN, HAS RECOMMENDED ANNUAL LAND SUPPLY TARGETS FOR DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF USE IN RELATION TO THEIR EXISTING AND PLANNED AVAILABILITY.

THE COMMITTEE HAS CONSIDERED THE PROVISION OF LAND FOR THE HOUSING AND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, AND HAS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING A LONG TERM VIEW OF THE MARKET POTENTIAL WHICH OUGHT NOT TO BE INFLUENCED BY SHORT TERM MARKET CONDITIONS, SAID MR BROWN.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW LAND HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND THESE HAVE BEEN COMPARED WITH THE CURRENT LAND SUPPLY FORECAST TO ASSESS THE EXTENT TO WHICH POLICY OBJECTIVES COULD BE MET, HE ADDED.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, FUTURE LAND PRODUCTION SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO SUSTAIN PRODUCTION OF PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING AT 26 200 FLATS A YEAR, WITH A FURTHER 3 800 FLATS TO BE PRODUCED THROUGH REDEVELOPMENT WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE NEW SITES.

CURRENT FORECASTS SHOW A GROWING SHORTFALL FROM 1989-90 IN LAND REQUIRED TO MEET FLAT PRODUCTION TARGETS FROM 1992-93, DESPITE THE AVAILABILITY OF A CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF SUPPLEMENTARY SITES, WHICH THE COMMITTEE FEELS +CANNOT BE RELIED UPON TO MEET THIS SHORTFALL+.

HOWEVER, IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT'S DECISIONS BASED ON THE INITIAL RESULTS OF THE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY STUDIES IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE NEW RECLAMATIONS AROUND THE WESTERN HARBOUR AREA WHICH SHOULD BEGIN TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THIS END BY 1992-93.

THE REPORT ALSO SAYS THAT LAND SUPPLY SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PERMIT THE ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF 10 000 FLATS FOR BOTH THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME.

/A MORE-THAN-ADEQUATE .....

A MORE-THAN-ADEQUATE LAND SUPPLY HAS BEEN FORECAST FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO CONTRIBUTE AN AVERAGE OF 24 000 FLATS A YEAR FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. IN VIEW OF THE CONSIDERABLE SURPLUS IN THE SUPPLY OF SITES FOR ALL TYPES OF PRIVATE HOUSING, THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY FOR LAND PRODUCTION TARGETS TO BE SET.

NEVERTHELESS IT FEARS THAT THIS SURPLUS SUPPLY SITUATION COULD LEAD DEVELOPERS TO CONCENTRATE ON PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING IN THE URBAN AREAS LEADING TO AN IMBALANCE IN THE NEW TOWNS.

THE COMMITTEE THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT THE STUDY OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING, AS WELL AS THE PATTERN OF PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING INVESTMENT, SHOULD CONTINUE WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING THE MOST APPROPRIATE HOUSING MIX TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN VARIOUS INCOME BRACKETS AND THE WAYS IN WHICH THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED.

ON THE SUPPLY OF LAND FOR THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, THE REPORT EXPECTS AN AMPLE SUPPLY BOTH IN THE SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONGER TERMS.

THE COMMITTEE HAS EXAMINED POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO ACHIEVING THE DESIRED DISTRIBUTION OF MANUFACTURING JOBS BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, NOTWITHSTANDING THE RECOGNITION THAT A BALANCE BETWEEN RESIDENT LABOUR FORCE AND LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES IS FAR MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE IN A FREE MARKET SITUATION.

HAVING REGARD TO THE PRESENT SUPPLY SITUATION AND MARKET CONDITIONS, THE COMMITTEE ENDORSES THREE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO FACILITATE BALANCED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THESE PROPOSALS INCLUDE PUTTING ABOUT HALF OF THE REMAINING CROWN LAND ZONED +INDUSTRIAL+ IN KOWLOON BAY TO MEDIUM-TERM TEMPORARY USE, REVIEWING THE PLOT RATIOS FOR THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS YET TO BE RECLAIMED AT CHAI WAN AND SIU CHAI WAN.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO FEELS THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE ACTIVE PROMOTION OF PRESENT AND FUTURE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY IN THE NON-METROPOLITAN AREAS.

IN ADDITION TO SETTING TARGETS, FORECASTING SUPPLY AND MONITORING PERFORMANCE IN LAND SUPPLY, THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO STUDIED SUCH RELATED TOPICS AS:

/* THE PLANNING, ...

* THE PLANNING, PROCEDURAL, FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LDC) CONCEPT. THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THE PROPOSALS ARE NOW SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR FOR AN EARLY DECISION TO BE MADE ON SETTING UP AN LDC TO UNDERTAKE REDEVELOPMENT WORK ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT. IF AN EARLY DECISION IS TAKEN, IT IS HOPED THAT SOME REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS BY THIS NEW APPROACH CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN 1986-87 TO IMPROVE THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT.

* THE PROVISION OF OFFICE SPACE UP TO THE TURN OF THE CENTURY AND THE TRANSPORT IMPLICATIONS OF OVER-CENTRALISATION OF COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN CENTRAL AND THE INNER CITY BUSINESS DISTRICTS. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT TRANSPORT PLANNING SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF POTENTIAL INTER-ZONAL TRAVEL DEMANDS AND AIM TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR CIRCULATION IN AREAS SUITABLE FOR NEW OFFICE DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT.

* THE IMPACT OF AUTOMATION ON THE INDUSTRIAL AND OFFICE SECTORS.

* THE RELEASE OF VACANT CROWN LAND SITES FOR TEMPORARY USES AND THE PROSPECT OF REZONING UNDEVELOPED GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMUNITY (GIC) SITES.

IN CONCLUSION, THE REPORT STATES THAT IT HAS NOTED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO FORM A NEW BUILDING AND LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE BY MERGING THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND SUPPLY AND THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

IN ITS PREVIOUS REPORT, THE SCLS STATED THAT ITS ROLE HAD BEEN FULFILLED AND SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT CARRY OUT A REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE REPORT IS ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT $20.

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HK LEADS WORLD IN THREE EXPORT CATEGORIES

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HONG KONG WAS THE LARGEST EXPORTER OF CLOTHING, TOYS AND GAMES, AND ELECTRIC HAIR DRESSING APPARATUS IN THE WORLD IN 1983.

HONG KONG WAS ALSO THE SECOND LARGEST EXPORTER OF FANS, DOMESTIC TYPE (AFTER TAIWAN); AND THE THIRD LARGEST EXPORTER OF WATCHES COMPLETE (AFTER SWITZERLAND AND JAPAN) AND RADIO-BROADCAST RECEIVERS (AFTER JAPAN AND TAIWAN).

DETAILS OF THESE ARE CONTAINED IN THE +HONG KONG REVIEW OF OVERSEAS TRADE IN 1984+, ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT $15 PER COPY.

THE REVIEW CONTAINS A BRIEF TEXT ON HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE PERFORMANCE IN 1984, 18 GRAPHS AND 38 STATISTICAL APPENDICES WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE PREVIOUS YEARS.

THE REVIEW PRESENTS A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE DIRECTION AND COMPOSITION OF HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS TRADE IN 1984, INCLUDING A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF TRADE BY MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS AND BY COMMODITY CATEGORIES, AS WELL AS STATISTICS ON HONG KONG'S PERFORMANCE IN WORLD TRADE AND IN PRINCIPAL OVERSEAS MARKETS, COMPARED WITH THOSE OF MAJOR COMPETITORS.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PUBLICATION ARE STATISTICS ON EXCHANGE RATES OF PRINCIPAL FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND THE EFFECTIVE (TRADE-WEIGHTED) EXCHANGE RATE INDEX FOR THE HONG KONG DOLLAR.

ACCORDING TO THE REVIEW, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN VALUE WERE NOTED IN IMPORTS FROM CHINA (BY $12 932 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT) AND FROM JAPAN (BY $12 286 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT). THE OVERSEAS MARKETS WITH THE HIGHEST GROWTH IN VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE THE U.S. (BY $17 573 MILLION OR 40 PER CENT) AND CHINA (BY $5 060 MILLION OR 81 PER CENT). HOWEVER, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO EGYPT AND THE NIGERIA DROPPED CONSIDERABLY IN VALUE (BY $267 MILLION OR 48 PER CENT AND BY $265 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY).

/BY COMMODITY .....

BY COMMODITY CATEGORIES, SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN VALUE WAS REGISTERED IN IMPORTS OF TEXTILES (BY $8 757 MILLION OR 36 PER CENT); AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS, APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY $6 318 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT)= WHEREAS THE COMMODITIES WITH THE HIGHEST GROWTH IN VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE CLOTHING (BY $12 349 MILLION OR 36 PER CENT) AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS) (BY $5 196 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT).

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORT TRADE ROSE BY 48 PER CENT IN 1984.

CHINA REMAINED THE LARGEST SUPPLIER OF GOODS FOR SUBSEQUENT RE-EXPORT. RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN INCREASED BY $8 427 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT WITH THE LARGEST INCREASE REGISTERED IN CLOTHING (BY $1 597 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT).

THE U.S. WAS THE LARGEST MARKET FOR RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN, ACCOUNTING FOR 31 PER CENT OF ALL RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN THROUGH HONG KONG. THE COMMODITY WITH SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BASKETWORK AND WICKERWORK AND BAMBOO ARTICLES) (BY $1 331 MILLION OR 148 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS OF JAPAN ORIGIN ALSO GREW (BY $7 066 MILLION OR 61 PER CENT), PARTICULARLY FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $1 302 MILLION OR 90 PER CENT). ABOUT HALF OF THE RE-EXPORTS OF JAPAN ORIGIN WENT TO CHINA WITH THE HIGHEST GROWTH REGISTERED IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $1 475 MILLION OR 341 PER CENT).

IN 1984, RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA ROSE DRASTICALLY BY $15 882 MILLION OR 130 PER CENT, BUT RE-EXPORTS TO NIGERIA FELL BY $332 MILLION OR 60 PER CENT.

THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE TRADE IN 1984, REPRESENTING 23 PER CENT OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, INCREASED BY $22 268 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT OVER 1983. IN TERMS OF TONNAGE, AIRBORNE TRADE CONSTITUTED LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF TOTAL TRADE.

AIRBORNE TRADE WITH THE U.S. INCREASED VERY RAPIDLY IN 1984; VALUES OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY $2 741 MILLION (OR 34 PER CENT), $4 803 MILLION (OR 32 PER CENT) AND $1 270 MILLION (OR 54 PER CENT) RESPECTIVELY.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, IMPORTS OF THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTOCELLS, TRANSISTORS AND PARTS TRANSPORTED BY AIR EXPERIENCED THE HIGHEST GROWTH (BY $3 015 MILLION OR 38 PER CENT), WHILST IN THE CASE OF EXPORTS BY AIR, CLOTHING RECORDED THE HIGHEST GROWTH (BY $3 682 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT). RE-EXPORTS OF THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTOCELLS, TRANSISTORS AND PARTS INCREASED BY $2 047 MILLION (OR 70 PER CENT).

AS FOR SEABORNE TRADE WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 59 PER CENT OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE VALUE IN 1984, AN INCREASE OF $59 329 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT OVER 1983 WAS RECORDED. ANALYSED IN TERMS OF TONNAGE, AS MUCH AS 90 PER CENT OF TOTAL TRADE WAS CARRIED BY SEA.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN SEABORNE TRADE WERE REGISTERED IN IMPORTS FROM JAPAN (BY $9 736 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT), EXPORTS TO THE U.S. (BY $12 759 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT) AND RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA (BY $3 808 MILLION OR 192 PER CENT).

VALUE OF SEABORNE IMPORTS OF TEXTILE FABRICS INCREASED RAPIDLY BY $3 595 MILLION OR 33 PER CENT WHEREAS THAT OF EXPORTS OF CLOTHING ALSO ROSE SIGNIFICANTLY BY $8 492 MILLION OR 36 PER CENT. RE-EXPORTS OF TEXTILE FABRICS BY SEA INCREASED BY $1 504 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT IN 1984.

THE REVIEW ALSO PUBLISHES UNIT VALUE AND QUANTUM INDEXES WHICH ARE OFTEN USED TO ASSESS THE MOVEMENTS IN COMMODITY PRICES AND CHANGES IN TRADE VOLUME.

DURING 1984, THE TRADE VOLUMES FOR IMPORTS, DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 15 PER CENT, 17 PER CENT AND 31 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OVER 1983.

SIGNIFICANT GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN THE EXPORT VOLUMES OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (BY 54 PER CENT) AND DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (BY 31 PER CENT), AND IN THE IMPORT AND RE-EXPORT VOLUMES OF CAPITAL GOODS (BY 35 PER CENT AND 55 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY).

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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES,
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS BEING SURVEYED
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS NOW CONDUCTING AN ANNUAL SURVEY OF THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS FOR THE YEAR 1984.

THE SURVEY COVERS WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT-EXPORT ESTABLISHMENTS, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE BEING SENT TO A SAMPLE OF ABOUT 8 100 ESTABLISHMENTS OUT OF A TOTAL OF SOME 120 000 ESTABLISHMENTS FALLING UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE SURVEY.

DATA TO BE COLLECTED IN THE SURVEY INCLUDE THE TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, FLOOR AREA, EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR COSTS, OPERATING EXPENSES, PURCHASES, OPENING AND CLOSING STOCKS, BUSINESS TURNOVER AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

SUCH ECONOMIC DATA WILL PROVIDE BASIC INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE AND SERVICE SECTOR AND ARE NEEDED FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE SECTOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT.

THE SURVEY RESULTS WILL ALSO BE USED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE FORMULATION OF DECISIONS AND POLICIES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID RESPONSE TO THE SURVEY IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT.

A CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER AUTHORISING THE CONDUCT OF THIS SURVEY WAS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE AND ISSUED AS LEGAL NOTICE NO. 16 IN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON JANUARY 13, 1984.

SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES BY JULY 31, 1985.

OFFICERS OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, WHO CARRY A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD WHILE ON DUTY, WILL VISIT THE ESTABLISHMENTS CONCERNED TO ASSIST THEM IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES IF REQUIRED.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS STRESSED THAT INFORMATION RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND THAT ONLY AGGREGATE INFORMATION WHICH DID NOT REVEAL DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE RELEASED.

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INSIDER DEALING TRIBUNAL TO HOLD FORMAL SITTINGS
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IN RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES FROM THE PRESS THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INSIDER DEALING TRIBUNAL.

THE TRIBUNAL WAS REQUIRED BY NOTICE FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY UNDER SECTION 141H(2) OF THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE DATED NOVEMBER 2, 1984 TO INQUIRE INTO AND DETERMINE

(A) WHETHER CULPABLE INSIDER DEALING IN RELATION TO ORDINARY SHARES IN INTERNATIONAL CITY HOLDINGS LIMITED OR ANY RELATED COMPANIES HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 1984 AND JUNE 30, 1984; AND

(B) THE IDENTITY OF ANY PERSONS INVOLVED IN SUCH INSIDER DEALING AND THE EXTENT OF THEIR CULPABILITY.

THE TRIBUNAL IS MINDFUL OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE PROGRESS OF THE INQUIRY WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE PUBLICATION OF THE TRIBUNAL'S REPORT TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY. IN THE MEANTIME THE PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT IS TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF THE INQUIRY WITHOUT CONTRAVENING THE PROVISION OF THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE WHICH PROHIBITS THE PUBLICATION OF MATERIAL RECEIVED BY THE TRIBUNAL FOR THE PURPOSES OF ITS INQUIRY.

THE NECESSARY SCOPE OF THE TRIBUNAL'S INVESTIGATION IS PROVING TO BE VERY EXTENSIVE. SOME 200 PERSONS HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED AND INFORMATION CONCERNING SHARE DEALINGS HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM MORE THAN 1 000 DEALERS. THE TRIBUNAL'S INVESTIGATORS HAVE BEEN FULLY EXTENDED AND THEIR NUMBERS HAVE HAD TO BE SUPPLEMENTED FROM THREE TO FIVE IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE THE INQUIRY.

THE TRIBUNAL'S INITIAL INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND IT WILL BEGIN ITS FORMAL SITTINGS ON JUNE 18, CONTINUING IF NECESSARY UNTIL JULY 12, 1985. FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS ARE UNDER WAY AND THE TRIBUNAL ENVISAGES THAT IT WILL PROBABLY RESUME ITS SITTINGS ON SEPTEMBER 23, 1985 WITH A VIEW TO CONCLUDING ITS SITTINGS BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR.

THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT EVERY SITTING OF THE TRIBUNAL SHALL BE IN CAMERA. IT IS REGRETTED THAT THE PUBLIC MAY NOT THEREFORE BE ADMITTED TO THE SITTINGS WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY THE PUBLICATION OF THE TRIBUNAL'S REPORT TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRIBUNAL IS MR JUSTICE CLOUGH. THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE MR GORDON M. MACWHINNIE AND MRS BARBARA M. WONG. COUNSEL TO THE TRIBUNAL IS MR G.J. MCMAHON OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS.

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YAU MA TEI BOARD MEETS TOMORROW

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THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING TOMORROW (MONDAY) AFTERNOON.

PRIOR TO THE MEETING, A CLOSED-DOOR SESSION WILL BE HELD TO ELECT THE BOARD'S CHAIRMAN.

AFTER THE ELECTION, BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE STANDING ORDERS, THE FORMATION OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES, THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE, THE MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF EACH OF ITS COMMITTEES, THE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, AND THE BOARD'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1985-86.

MEMBERS' VIEW WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT ON WHETHER THE BOARD SHOULD ALLOCATE $140 000 TO BEAUTIFY A VACANT SITE ALONG HONG TAT PATH IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, AND WHETHER THEY SHOULD SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

THEY WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE OUTSTANDING PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT FROM 1982 TO 1985, THE BOARD'S FINANCIAL PROCEDURE AND THE +MEET-THE-PUBLIC+ SCHEME.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE PROGRESS REPORT OF GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP ON PRIVATE ROADS AND THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF THE DISABLED.

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BOARD TO HEAR ABOUT HOUSING AREA

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TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON A PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE TENURE OF THE SHUEN WAN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA AT THEIR MEETING ON TUESDAY (APRIL 23) MORNING.

THE SHUEN WAN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA WAS ESTABLISHED IN OCTOBER 1982 TO HOUSE VICTIMS OF SQUATTER FIRES AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS. THE TENURE OF THE THA EXPIRED ON MARCH 31, 1985.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE FORMATION OF VARIOUS BOARD COMMITTEES AND WILL BE BRIEFED ON AN INFORMATION PAPER ON PRIVATE ROADS.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE PROVISIONAL ALLOCATION AND APPLICATIONS OF FUNDS.

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FIGHT AGAINST RATS GOES ON

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MORE THAN 56 000 RATS WERE DESTROYED BY PEST CONTROL OFFICERS OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR, DURING 385 BLOCK DISINFESTATION AND 740 HOLE-BAITING OPERATIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE OPERATIONS ARE AN ON-GOING EXERCISE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC AGAINST DISEASES WHICH MAY BE TRANSMITTED BY RATS, A SPOKESMAN FOR RSD SAID TODAY.

PEST CONTROL OFFICERS FROM VARIOUS RSD DISTRICT OFFICES INSPECT ALL POSSIBLE RODENT BREEDING PLACES ON A REGULAR BASIS, AND PLACE TRAPS OR APPLY POISON ONCE RODENT BREEDING IS TRACED, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE NO LONG-LASTING METHODS TO EXTERMINATE RATS AS ALL CONTROL MEASURES WERE EASILY +OFFSET BY THE RAPID REPRODUCTION CAPACITY OF RATS.+

AS RATS USE ALL AVAILABLE FOOD AND SHELTERING PLACES TO BREED, THE BEST WAY TO STOP THEM FROM MULTIPLYING IS TO KEEP ALL FOOD IN RAT-PROOF CONTAINERS TO LEAVE NO REFUSE AROUND, HE SAID.

IT WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT NOT TO GIVE RATS A PLACE TO HIDE EITHER BEHIND OPENINGS ON FLOORS, WALLS OR IN VENTILATION DUCTS.

+A BUILDING THAT IS CLEAN AND WELL-MAINTAINED KEEPS RATS AWAY,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

NEW TERRITORIES RESIDENTS WHO ENCOUNTER RODENT NUISANCE ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE RSD FOR ASSISTANCE.

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GRANTS OFFERED FOR SPORTS, CULTURAL PROJECTS

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ORGANISATIONS NEEDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATIONAL, SPORTING, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES CAN APPLY FOR GRANTS FROM THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION.

ABOUT ONE MILLION DOLLARS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS THIS FINANCIAL YEAR 1985-86 AND APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS FROM THE FUND ARE NOW BEING INVITED.

THE FUND IS ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT OF THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL SAID PROJECTS SHOULD BE PRINCIPALLY FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES, BENEFIT A LARGE SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY AND BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON REASONABLE REQUEST.

THEY SHOULD ALSO BE SPECIFICALLY OF THE +BRICK AND MORTAR+ TYPE, BE DESIGNED TO DEVELOP THE INDIVIDUAL AND ENCOURAGE PURPOSEFUL USE OF LEISURE TIME AND PRIMARILY BENEFIT YOUNG PEOPLE, HE SAID.

TO ENSURE A REASONABLE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS TO BE APPROVED EACH YEAR, GRANTS WILL NOT EXCEED MORE THAN $200 000 EACH AND MORE EXPENSIVE PROJECTS WILL BE CONSIDERED ON A STRICTER BASIS.

HOWEVER, EACH CASE WILL BE CONSIDERED ON ITS OWN MERITS AS TO WHICH PROJECTS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED EITHER IN FULL OR IN PART.

PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO INITIATION OF NEW PROJECTS OF NEW AGENCIES WHICH HAVE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION OR ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER MAJOR SOURCES.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES SECTION OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, DISTRICT OFFICES OF URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND FROM THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED IN DUPLICATE AND FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY, COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, 11TH FLOOR, WING ON CENTRE, 111 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG, NOT LATER THAN MAY 21, 1985.

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CHILDREN SOUGHT FOR CHOIR

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THE SHAM SHUI PO CHILDREN'S CHOIR IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS, AND THERE ARE PLANS TO BOOST THE CHOIR'S TRAINING AND PERFORMING PROGRAMMES.

CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN SIX AND 12, LIVING OR STUDYING IN SHAM SHUI PO, CAN APPLY TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CHOIR. UPON ENROLMENT A CHOIR MEMBER WILL RECEIVE VOCAL TRAINING BY PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS FOR TWO HOURS EVERY SATURDAY AT BUDDHIST TAI HUNG COLLEGE.

AFTER THE EXPANSION, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHOIR IS EXPECTED TO REACH 140, COMPRISING SENIOR AND JUNIOR SECTIONS.

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR IS PART OF THE DISTRICT-BASED RECREATIONAL AND ART PROGRAMME SPONSORED BY THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD. THE ENTRANCE FEE IS $60 AND THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION IS $40.

THE CHOIR WAS FORMED IN 1982 TO ENRICH CHILDREN'S MUSICAL INTEREST AND KNOWLEDGE, TO FOSTER THEIR TEAM SPIRIT AND GOOD CHARACTER THROUGH HEALTHY GROUP ACTIVITIES, AND TO PROMOTE ART AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING PROGRAMME.

DESPITE ITS SHORT HISTORY, THE CHOIR HAS MANAGED TO ORGANISE A NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL CONCERTS AND MADE REGULAR APPEARANCES ON TELEVISION AND LOCAL STAGES.

APART FROM TRAINING SESSIONS, THE CHOIR ALSO ORGANISES FREQUENT GATHERINGS AND OUTINGS, AND ARRANGES MEMBERS TO ATTEND OTHER CONCERTS IN GROUPS AS WELL AS TAKING PART IN OPEN COMPETITION.

ENTRY FORMS FOR THE CHOIR MEMBERSHIP ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT 3-704251 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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SPACE FRAME SYSTEM SUPPLIERS NEEDED

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PERSONS CAPABLE OF SUPPLYING AND ERECTING PREFABRICATED TUBULAR SPACE FRAME SYSTEMS, ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR INCLUSION IN THE LIST OF SUPPLIERS-MANUFACTURERS OF SPACE FRAME SYSTEMS.

THE SYSTEMS ARE TO BE FITTED AS ROOFS AT INDOOR GAMES HALLS IN YUEN LONG AND SHA TIN, AND RECREATIONAL GROUNDS IN KOWLOON BAY AND TO KWA WAN.

THE SUPPLIERS-MANUFACTURERS ARE REQUIRED TO SUPPLY AND SUPERVISE THE ERECTION OF THE SPACE FRAMES AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESIGN IN THE CASE OF MODIFICATION TO SUIT THE SPECIFIED DIMENSIONS AND ROOFING SYSTEM.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT, ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE, BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, NOT LATER THAN MAY 10 AND MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED 'APPLICATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE +LIST OF SUPPLIERS-MANUFACTURERS OF SPACE FRAME SYSTEMS+'.

APPLICANTS SHOULD ALSO ENCLOSE DETAILED INFORMATION ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE SYSTEM, ERECTION METHODS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION CONCERNING THEIR MANUFACTURE AND DELIVERY.

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SUPPORT FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES URGED

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SCHOOLS, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND ALL WHO CARE FOR HONG KONG HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN THE CHANELLING OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TOWARDS THE PURSUIT OF HEALTHY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES, A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER SAID THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR ALBERT LI, WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT'S SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE, SAID THAT THE MUSIC OFFICE'S INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING SCHEME HAS GONE A LONG WAY TO WIDEN THE HORIZON OF SOME OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND TO EQUIP THEM WITH A BROADER PERSPECTIVE OF LIFE.

/MR LI .....

MR LI WAS SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY OF THE KOWLOON REGION STUDENTS CONCERT AT THE DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL, ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE FOR ITS TRAINEES IN KOWLOON TO PERFORM IN PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY BEFORE THEIR PARENTS AND TEACHERS.

+BEING AN EDUCATIONALIST MYSELF, I AM IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE AND SUPPORT THE WORK IT DOES,+ HE ADDED.

MRS DORIS HO, THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR, SAID IN HER WELCOME SPEECH THAT THE MUSIC OFFICE, IN RUNNING THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING SCHEME, PLACED MUCH IMPORTANCE ON PROGRESS, AND INSTRUCTORS AND TRAINEES ALIKE MUST REGULARLY REVIEW AND EVALUATE WHAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AND WHAT FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE.

SHE SAID, THE STUDENTS CONCERTS PROVIDE SUCH OCCASIONS FOR ASSESSMENT AND ARE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME.

+THE PERFORMERS INCLUDE NOT ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE REACHED AN ADVANCED LEVEL OF TRAINING BUT ALSO THOSE WHO HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE PAST YEAR,+ SHE SAID.

+SOME OF THE PERFORMERS TODAY HAVE ONLY LEARNT TO PLAY THEIR INSTRUMENTS FOR A YEAR OR TWO, BUT THEIR MASTERY OF THE INSTRUMENT IN THE SHORT TIME IS WORTHY OF COMMENDATION,+ SHE STRESSED.

MRS HO ALSO THANKED THE PARENTS AND FRIENDS ATTENDING THE CONCERT FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY ENCOURAGEMENT AND ADVICE WHICH HELPED TO MAKE THE WHOLE TRAINING PROCESS.

THE MUSIC OFFICE'S EAST KOWLOON YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND AND THE KOWLOON YOUTH STRING ORCHESTRA, AND INDIVIDUAL TRAINEES SHOWED THEIR PROGRESS BY PLAYING VARIOUS WESTERN AND CHINESE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE CONCERT.

THE HONG KONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR ALSO GAVE A GUEST PERFORMANCE.

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FIRE ENGINEERS PLAN OIL FIELD VISIT

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THE HONG KONG CHAPTER OF FIRE ENGINEERS IS PLANNING TO VISIT THE SOUTH SEA OIL FIELD IN HAINAM ISLAND, THE OUT-GOING PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF FIRE ENGINEERS, HONG KONG BRANCH (IFE), MR WOO KWAN-KUEN SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE INSTITUTE'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MR WOO, WHO IS ALSO ACTING CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF THE KOWLOON FIRE COMMAND, SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO VISIT TO THE OIL FIELD DURING HIS TERMS OF OFFICE BECAUSE OF SOME TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.

HE HOPED THE INCOMING COUNCIL WOULD PURSUE THE MATTER.

MR WOO ALSO SAID THAT 44 MEMBERS HAD PASSED THE VARIOUS GRADES OF IFE EXAMINATIONS, SCORING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PASS RATES AMONG ALL OVERSEAS BRANCHES.

HE SAID THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF IFE WOULD TAKE PART IN THE ASIAN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND FIRE EXPOSITION AND CONFERENCE (AISEC'85) AND ALSO THE 3RD SOUTH EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC FIRE SAFETY CONFERENCE (SEAPAC) TO BE HELD IN SINGAPORE IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR.

AT THE MEETING, MR G.V. ALLAWAY WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE IFE HONG KONG BRANCH FOR THE COMING YEAR. MR ALLAWAY IS THE DIVISIONAL COMMANDER OF KOWLOON SOUTH DIVISION OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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CHILDREN'S ART WORKS ON SHOW

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ABOUT 600 HANDICRAFTS AND PAINTINGS BY SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM MORE THAN 40 SCHOOLS IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE ON DISPLAY ON TUESDAY (APRIL 23) AT THE WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE TWO-DAY EXHIBITION IS ORGANISED BY THE SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE OF WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT WITH SPONSORSHIP OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD.

THE EXHIBITS INCLUDE POTTERY WARES, CHINESE AND WESTERN PAINTINGS, PAPER MODELS, ENGRAVINGS AND HANDICRAFT MADE OF RATTAN, WOOD, STRAW AND FOAM RUBBER.

/A SPOKESMAN .....

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ORGANISERS SAID THAT THE EXHIBITION WAS ONE OF THE SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE'S COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROJECTS, TO DEVELOP THE CREATIVENESS AND ARTISTIC POTENTIAL OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

THE EXHIBITION, WILL BE FROM 3 PM TO 6 PM ON TUESDAY AND FROM 9 AM TO 6 PM ON THE FOLLOWING WEDNESDAY AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 104, CHING TAK STREET.

THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PAUL WONG, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE, MR ALBERT LI AND OTHER ORGANISERS WILL OFFICIATE AT THE EXHIBITION'S OPENING CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT 3 PM ON TUESDAY.

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ELEVATED ROAD TO EASE TRAFFIC

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AN ELEVATED ROAD IS TO BE BUILT ACROSS NATHAN ROAD TO LINK CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD AND BOUNDARY STREET.

IT WILL FORM PART OF A DISTRICT DISTRIBUTOR ROAD SYSTEM KNOWN AS ROUTE 11 CONNECTING LAI CHI KOK AND SHAM SHUI PO WITH EAST KOWLOON, AND WILL PROVIDE A THROUGH ROUTE FOR EASTBOUND TRAFFIC FROM CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD TO BOUNDARY STREET WITHOUT INTERRUPTING GROUND LEVEL TRAFFIC.

WORK INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 6.75-METRE WIDE TWO-LANE ONE-WAY ELEVATED ROAD FROM CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD NEAR MAPLE STREET TO BOUNDARY STREET NEAR SAI YEE STREET.

THERE WILL ALSO BE MODIFICATION OF THE CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD/ TAI PO ROAD JUNCTION AND LOCAL WIDENING OF CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD, BOUNDARY STREET AND NATHAN ROAD ADJACENT TO THE PROPOSED ELEVATED ROAD.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES ANCILLARY ROAD RECONSTRUCTION, DRAINAGE AND LANDSCAPING WORKS, WILL START IN JULY AND BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT 27 MONTHS.

THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT.

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UC MANAGES WIDE-RANGING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

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WITH LAND AT A PREMIUM IN HONG KONG, EVERY SITE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR RECREATION IS UTILISED TO THE FULL.

AT PRESENT, THE COUNCIL OPERATES 11 INDOOR GAMES HALLS, EACH COMPRISING A MULTI-PURPOSE COURT FOR BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, BADMINTON AND GYMNASTICS A SQUASH COURT AND TABLE TENNIS ROOMS.

ALL THE COURTS ARE WELL PATRONISED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS. THE MOST POPULAR HALLS LAST MONTH WERE THE WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD IGH, THE BOUNDARY STREET IGH AND THE MORSE PARK IGH, ALL OF WHICH ATTAINED A 96 PER CENT USAGE RATE.

THE COUNCIL ALSO MANAGES A RANGE OF FACILITIES THAT INCLUDE 36 GRASS SOCCER PITCHES, 102 HARD SURFACED MINI-SOCCER PITCHES, 15 ROLLER SKATING RINKS, SEVEN JOGGING TRACKS, 84 TENNIS COURTS, 167 BASKETBALL COURTS, 35 VOLLEYBALL COURTS, 16 SQUASH COURTS, TEN BADMINTON COURTS, TWO HOCKEY GROUNDS, TWO RUGBY GROUNDS, FOUR INDOOR/OUTDOOR STADIA, 187 CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS, 12 BEACHES, 11 SWIMMING POOL COMPLEXES, TWO BOWLING GREENS AND TWO OBSTACLE GOLF COURSES.

OF THESE, THE SQUASH COURTS ARE HEAVILY USED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK WITH THE USAGE RATE AS HIGH AS 97 PER CENT.

FOR THOSE WHO PREFER PASSIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES DURING LEISURE HOURS, THE COUNCIL PROVIDES SOME 410 GARDENS (INCLUDING SITTING-OUT AREAS AND GARDEN AREAS INSIDE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS), 26 PARKS AND 181 AMENITIES PLOTS.

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TRAFFIC LANES TO CLOSE FOR ROAD WORKS

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TWO TRAFFIC LANES OF THE SECTION OF YUEN WO ROAD BETWEEN WANG POK STREET AND SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 25) FOR EIGHT WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO EXERCISE UTMOST CARE AND PATIENCE ON USING THE SAID ROAD SECTION AS TRAFFIC CONGESTION IS EXPECTED.

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