



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES AN 'UNWELCOME NECESSITY'

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NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES MAY BECOME AN UNWELCOME NECESSITY IF HONG KONG IS TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST WHOLLY UNWARRANTED SPECULATION ON A REVALUATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE U.S. DOLLAR, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR JACOBS SAID UNWARRANTED SPECULATION HAD ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE NORMAL CONDUCT OF THE BUSINESS OF BANKING AND OTHER COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS REDUCING THE INCOME OF SAVERS, OF THE MAN IN THE STREET.

MR JACOBS SAID THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS RECOGNISED THAT NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES, IF ACTUALLY APPLIED, WOULD CAUSE SOME DISRUPTION TO THE BUSINESS OF BANKING.

"THEY MAY ALSO CAUSE FRICTION BETWEEN BANKS AND CUSTOMERS AND IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON BANKS," HE SAID.

"NATURALLY, WE ALL HOPE THAT IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THESE ARRANGMENTS FOR NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES, BUT IF THERE IS A NEED THEN UNDOUBTEDLY WE WILL HAVE TO DO SO.

"HOPEFULLY, ANY PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE SHORT AND THE DISRUPTION CAUSED WOULD BE TEMPORARY."

MR JACOBS ADDED THAT MEMBERS WOULD HAVE OBSERVED THAT THE MERE THREAT OF IMPLEMENTING NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES HAD APPARENTLY BEEN EFFECTIVE IN DETERRING RECENT SPECULATION.

AS TO WHAT BENEFITS MIGHT FLOW FROM THE ADOPTION OF NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES AND WHAT IMPACT IT WOULD HAVE ON HONG KONG, MR JACOBS SAID THAT TO THE EXTENT THAT NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES WERE DESIGNED TO ENSURE STABILITY IN THE EXCHANGE RATE, THE EFFECT WAS CLEARLY BENEFICIAL.

"NO ONE OTHER THAN SPECULATORS GAINS FROM VOLATILE EXCHANGE RATES. THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG PREFERS STABILITY," HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE INTRODUCTION OF NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES, MR JACOBS SAID ON DECEMBER 19 THE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH HIM, EXERCISED ITS POWERS UNDER SECTION 12(1) OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS ORDINANCE AND MADE A NEW RULE CALLED THE "SPECIFIED RATE RULE".

"THIS RULE PROVIDES FOR THE CHARGING OF INTEREST ON LARGE HONG KONG DOLLAR BALANCES MAINTAINED ON THE CLEARING ACCOUNTS OF MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION," HE SAID.

/IN ORDER

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IN ORDER THAT THE RULE COULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN AN ORDERLY MANNER, THE ASSOCIATION'S COMMITTEE WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THERE SHOULD BE UNIFORM PRACTICE AMONG MEMBERS IN RELATION TO THE PASSING ON OF THE CHARGE TO CUSTOMERS, MR JACOBS CONTINUED.

CERTAIN AMENDMENTS WERE CONSEQUENTLY MADE ON JANUARY 14 TO THE RULES ON INTEREST RATES, WHICH EMPOWERED THE COMMITTEE TO SPECIFY PRACTICES TO BE ADOPTED BY BANKS SO THAT NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES MIGHT BE IMPOSED ON LARGE HONG KONG DOLLAR BALANCES MAINTAINED BY THEIR CUSTOMERS, IF THERE WAS A NEED TO DO SO.

"THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT BY MARCH 10 IT WILL BE IN A POSITION TO IMPLEMENT NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES, AGAIN IF THERE IS A NEED TO DO SO," MR JACOBS SAID.

"THUS, THE COMMITTEE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT HAS CREATED A USEFUL MECHANISM TO COUNTER SPECULATION ON A REVALUATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE U.S. DOLLAR.

"IN EFFECT, DEPENDING ON THE RATE TO BE SPECIFIED, THE IMPOSITION OF NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES WILL MAKE IT EXPENSIVE TO HOLD LARGE HONG KONG DOLLAR BALANCES."

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CHANGING RATIO IN FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI HOUSING

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THE HOUSING RATIO IN FANLING AND SHEUNG SHUI WILL CHANGE FROM THE PRESENT 70 PER CENT IN PUBLIC HOUSING (INCLUDING HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS) AND 30 PER CENT IN PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING TO ABOUT 58 TO 42 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY ON FULL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN.

BUT THE SHIFT IN BALANCE WILL TAKE PLACE GRADUALLY, AS IT HAS IN OTHER NEW TOWNS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THE LAND ZONED FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT IN FANLING AND SHEUNG SHUI IS IN PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AND IS EXPECTED TO BE REDEVELOPED," MR BARNES SAID.

"TO ENCOURAGE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRAL AREAS ZONED FOR COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL USE, THE MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE PLOT RATIO WAS RECENTLY INCREASED."

THE PRESENT POPULATION IN FANLING AND SHEUNG SHUI WAS ABOUT 120,000, WHICH WOULD BE DOUBLED ON FULL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN.

/MR BARNES

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MR BARNES NOTED THE SUCCESSFUL PROVISION OF HOUSING WAS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF OR ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

HE REFERRED TO THE RECENT REVIVAL OF INTEREST IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHERN NEW TERRITORIES.

"THIS HAS BEEN REFLECTED BOTH IN THE SALES OF NEW INDUSTRIAL LOTS AND ALSO IN THE NUMBER OF EXCHANGES INVOLVING MORE INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT BEING PROCESSED IN ON LOK TSUEN INDUSTRIAL AREA," HE SAID.

"THIS REVIVAL APPEARS TO BE MORE CONNECTED WITH THE PRESENT EVOLUTIONARY STAGE OF OUR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT THAN IN THE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI.

"BUT IT DOES SUGGEST THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD AIM TO PROVIDE MORE SUCH SITES FOR DISPOSAL IN THE FUTURE. THIS WILL BE LOOKED AT NOW."

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MORE POSTS FOR LANGUAGE OFFICERS

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ESTIMATES ARE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS WILL EXPAND BY FIVE PER CENT ANNUALLY AND SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS BY 10 PER CENT ANNUALLY TO COPE WITH THE INCREASE IN WORKLOAD IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN ON THE PROJECTED SHORTAGE OF TRANSLATORS AND SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS, AND MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO REDUCE SUCH A SHORTAGE, SIR DAVID SAID HE DID NOT ENVISAGE ANY MAJOR DIFFICULTIES IN FILLING MOST OF THE NEW POSTS.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT PUTONGHUA INTERPRETERS WERE MOST DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT BUT THIS PROBLEM WAS BEING OVERCOME BY IN-SERVICE TRAINING.

"IN THE EVENT OF ANY UNFORESEEABLE DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THE DEMAND, WE CAN ARRANGE TO CONTRACT OUT TRANSLATION WORK TO PRIVATE AGENCIES OR HIRE PART-TIMERS FOR TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION," HE SAID.

"THE POOL OF TRANSLATION AGENCIES AND PART-TIMERS IS AT PRESENT BEING EXPANDED.

"AT PRESENT THERE ARE 436 CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS, 14 FULL-TIME AND NINE PART-TIME SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS, WHO PROVIDE TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES FOR GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES."

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EFFORTS MADE TO ASCERTAIN STUDENTS' STATE OF HEALTH

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IT IS NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY OR PRACTICAL TO REQUIRE PARENTS TO SUBMIT FORMAL MEDICAL REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES ON REGISTRATION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON DOMINIC WONG SHING-WAH, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, MR WONG EXPLAINED THAT A NUMBER OF MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND SCHOOLS TO ENABLE THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES TO HAVE A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE HEALTH OF THEIR STUDENTS.

"SINCE 1978 THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN OPERATING A COMPREHENSIVE OBSERVATION SCHEME FOR ALL INFANTS FROM BIRTH TO THE AGE OF FIVE," HE SAID.

"THE OBJECTIVE IS TO ENSURE THAT ALL CONGENITAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL ABNORMALITIES ARE DETECTED SO THAT TREATMENT AND REMEDIAL ACTION IS TAKEN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE."

PARENTS WERE THUS MADE AWARE AT AN EARLY STAGE OF ANY PHYSICAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS AFFECTING THEIR CHILDREN.

MR WONG SAID IT WAS LIKELY THAT PARENTS WOULD PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES UPON THE ADMISSION OF THEIR CHILDREN OR AFTER SUCH CONDITIONS WERE DIAGNOSED.

IN FACT, MANY SCHOOLS REQUESTED MEDICAL DETAILS OF NEW ENTRANTS IN THE "FAMILY PARTICULARS FORM".

"SEPARATELY, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS A COMBINED SCREENING PROGRAMME OF ALL PRIMARY 1 PUPILS IN ORDER TO DETECT VISUAL, HEARING, SPEECH AND LEARNING DISABILITIES," HE SAID.

"THE RESULTS OF THIS SCREENING ARE CONVEYED TO THE SCHOOLS CONCERNED."

MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS ALSO THE PRACTICE OF SCHOOLS TO EXEMPT PUPILS FROM PHYSICAL EDUCATION LESSONS OR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES SHOULD THEIR PARENTS SO REQUEST ON MEDICAL GROUNDS.

"INDEED A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS, ESPECIALLY AT THE PRIMARY LEVEL, WRITE TO PARENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR, ASKING WHETHER THEIR CHILDREN NEED TO BE EXEMPTED FROM PHYSICAL EDUCATION LESSONS FOR HEALTH REASONS," HE ADDED.

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TARGETTED SCREENING FOR CERVICAL CANCER PREFERRED
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TARGETTED SCREENING OF WOMEN WITH INCREASED RISK OF CONTRACTING CERVICAL CANCER WAS PREFERRED TO A SCREENING PROGRAMME FOR ALL WOMEN, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT SMEAR SCREENING FOR CERVICAL CANCER WAS CARRIED OUT AT THE FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS OF THE GOVERNMENT FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES AND THE HONG KONG FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION.

HE SAID SMEAR SCREENING ALSO TOOK PLACE IN SOCIAL HYGIENE CLINICS, GYNAECO-LOGICAL AND ANTE-NATAL CLINICS IN GOVERNMENT, SUBVENTED AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

"THE PAP SMEAR TEST IS NOW WIDELY AVAILABLE AS A ROUTINE CHECK OR WHEN MEDICALLY REQUIRED," HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS POINTED OUT THAT FROM 1980 TO 1983, A THREE-YEAR PILOT STUDY ON ROUTINE SCREENING ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THE HONG KONG ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY AND THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WAS CONDUCTED AT THE GOVERNMENT'S MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES.

A TOTAL OF 18,013 SMEARS WERE EXAMINED AND 130 WERE FOUND TO BE ABNORMAL. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CERVICAL CANCERS DETECTED WAS 23 AND THE PICK UP RATE WAS THEREFORE ONLY 1.27 PER THOUSAND.

"THIS WAS CONSIDERED TO BE TOO LOW TO JUSTIFY A SCREENING PROGRAMME FOR ALL WOMEN," HE SAID.

TARGETTED SCREENING OF WOMEN WITH INCREASED RISK OF CONTRACTING CERVICAL CANCER WAS THEREFORE PREFERRED.

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FREE BOOKLET ON HEALTH ASPECTS OF VDU'S
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CURRENT MEDICAL OPINION HOLDS THAT THE OPERATION OF COMPUTER VISUAL DISPLAY UNITS IS SAFE AND IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON OPERATORS' HEALTH, PROVIDED THAT APPROPRIATE ATTENTION TO WORKING CONDITIONS AND SUITABLE REST PERIODS ARE GIVEN.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON DOMINIC WONG SHING-WAH, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/"NO OTHER

"NO OTHER MEASURES ARE THEREFORE REQUIRED TO PROTECT THESE OPERATORS," MR WONG SAID.

HOWEVER, FROM AN ADVISORY ANGLE, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD PUBLISHED A FREE BOOKLET ON "HEALTH ASPECTS OF VISUAL DISPLAY UNITS" WHICH CONTAINED DETAILED INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON THE SUBJECT.

MR WONG SAID NO SYSTEMATIC STUDY HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN HONG KONG ON THE EFFECT OF OPERATING COMPUTER TERMINALS FOR LONG HOURS ON THE HEALTH OF OPERATORS.

EXTENSIVE OVERSEAS STUDIES HAD FOUND THAT OPERATORS OF VISUAL DISPLAY UNITS SOMETIMES COMPLAINED OF EYE STRAIN, HEADACHES AND PAINS IN THE NECK, SHOULDER AND BACK.

"ACCORDING TO THESE STUDIES, EYE STRAIN AND HEADACHES ARE CAUSED BY SUCH FACTORS AS INADEQUATE LIGHTING OF THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT, THE SMALL SIZE OF CHARACTERS ON THE SCREEN, POOR ADJUSTMENT OF BRIGHTNESS AND CONTRAST, AND FLICKERING ON THE SCREEN CAUSED BY THE POOR QUALITY OF THE VISUAL DISPLAY UNIT," HE SAID.

"NECK, SHOULDER AND BACK PAINS ARE LARGELY THE RESULT OF INCORRECT POSTURE, POOR CHAIR DESIGN OR POOR LAYOUT OF THE WORK STATION."

"AS REGARDS RADIATION," MR WONG SAID, "THE STUDIES CONDUCTED OVERSEAS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE RADIATION EMITTED BY A VISUAL DISPLAY UNIT IS VERY LOW, SO LOW THAT IT POSES NO HARMFUL EFFECT TO HEALTH."

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TARGET DATES FOR INCINERATORS TO CLOSE DOWN
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THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR SHOULD BE CLOSED DOWN IN 1992 WHILE THE LAI CHI KOK PLANT WILL BE SHUT DOWN IN PHASES-AT THE END OF THIS YEAR AND IN LATE 1990, WHEN NEW FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO DISPOSE OF WASTE WHICH IS NOW BEING BURNED THERE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE NEW FACILITIES WOULD BE REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS LOCATED IN URBAN AREAS, FROM WHICH WASTE WOULD BE TRANSPORTED IN BULK TO THREE LARGE LANDFILL SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

"DETAILED DESIGN FOR THE FIRST OF THE LANDFILLS, LOCATED AT NIM WAN IN THE WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES HAS JUST BEGUN," HE SAID.

/SITE PREPARATION

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SITE PREPARATION WOULD BEGIN IN EARLY 1989, AND THE LANDFILL SHOULD START RECEIVING WASTE IN LATE 1990, MR CHAMBERS SAID.

"A STUDY OF THE OUTLINE DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE SECOND LANDFILL SITE IN THE NORTH-EAST NEW TERRITORIES IS ALMOST COMPLETE," HE CONTINUED.

"PREPARATORY WORKS SHOULD BEGIN IN EARLY 1991, WITH DISPOSAL OF WASTE AT THE SITE BEGINNING IN LATE 1993.

"THE THIRD LANDFILL SITE WILL BE LOCATED AT JUNK BAY TO THE NORTH-EAST OF FAT TONG CHAU (JUNK ISLAND). WORK IS IN PROGRESS ON THE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGN AND LANDFILLING IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN LATE 1994."

MR CHAMBERS NOTED THAT THE EXISTING LANDFILL SITES, AT SHUEN WAN, PILLAR POINT VALLEY AND JUNK BAY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE OPERATED UNTIL THE NEW FACILITIES WERE COMMISSIONED.

ON THE IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO MINIMISE POLLUTION CAUSED BY THE TWO INCINERATORS IN THE MEANTIME, MR CHAMBERS SAID ELECTROSTATIC PRECIPITATORS HAD BEEN INSTALLED WHICH SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE AMOUNT OF DUST EMITTED, BUT DID NOT REMOVE GASEOUS AND FINE PARTICULATE POLLUTION.

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EXCO TAKES ACCOUNT OF VIEWS ON AGB MCNAIR SURVEYS

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS ON THE AGB MCNAIR SURVEYS OF PUBLIC OPINION ON THE GREEN PAPER ON DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, STATED THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN LEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT WHILE WINDING UP THE LEGCO DEBATE ON THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT ON THE GREEN PAPER ON NOVEMBER 18 HE HAD NOTED THAT A WIDE RANGE OF COMMENTS HAD BEEN MADE ON THE AGB MCNAIR SURVEYS.

HE QUOTED WHAT HE SAID ON THAT OCCASION: "AS IN ANY SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THERE WILL INEVITABLY BE DIFFERENT JUDGEMENTS AS TO HOW PRECISELY ANY PARTICULAR QUESTION SHOULD BE PUT.

"I DO NOT BELIEVE IT TO BE PART OF MY TASK TO DEFEND THE PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT OF THE COMPANY OR THE APPROACH IT HAS ADOPTED.

/"LISTENING TO

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"LISTENING TO MEMBERS' SPEECHES THIS AFTERNOON, IT IS CLEAR THAT WHILE THERE IS STRONG CRITICISM OF THE REPORT FROM SOME MEMBERS, OTHERS HAVE BEEN SATISFIED BY THE CAREFUL EXPLANATIONS WHICH THE COMPANY HAS PROVIDED.

"I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, I SHOULD ASSURE MEMBERS THAT BOTH VIEWS WILL OF COURSE BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WHEN CONSIDERING THE REPORT".

SIR DAVID THEN TOLD COUNCILLORS HE COULD CONFIRM THAT THOSE VIEWS HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

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WHOLE-DAY OPERATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS ENCOURAGED

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IT IS ALREADY THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO ENCOURAGE PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO CONVERT TO WHOLE-DAY OPERATION WHEREVER FEASIBLE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON DOMINIC WONG SHING-WAH, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR WONG SAID 38 SCHOOLS HAD SO CONVERTED DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS.

"CONVERSION TO WHOLE-DAY OPERATION IS PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE WHENEVER A SCHOOL BUILDING IS VACANT FOR HALF THE DAY, OR WHEN THE COMBINED ENROLMENT OF BOTH BI-SESSIONAL SCHOOLS DOES NOT EXCEED THE PERMITTED CAPACITY OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING," MR WONG SAID.

HE SAID THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE 47 SCHOOLS WHICH COULD EXTEND OPERATION INTO THE OTHER HALF OF THE DAY, AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION WAS MAKING EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES TO CONVERT TO WHOLE-DAY OPERATION.

WHILE NOTING THAT THE COMBINATION OF TWO SCHOOL SESSIONS SHARING THE SAME BUILDING PRESENTED RATHER MORE DIFFICULTIES, MR WONG SAID EFFORTS WERE LIKEWISE BEING MADE TO ENCOURAGE WHOLE-DAY OPERATION.

"WHILE IN THEORY ALL THE VACANT CLASSROOMS COULD BE USED TO HASTEN THE EXTENSION OF WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLING, IN PRACTICE THERE ARE VARIOUS CONSTRAINTS," HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT DESIRABLE TO REQUIRE CHILDREN TO CHANGE SCHOOLS; NOR WAS IT DESIRABLE TO FORCE CHILDREN TO TAKE UP PLACES OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL CATCHMENT AREA.

/"THE ADMINISTRATION

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"THE ADMINISTRATION WILL TAKE ALL PRACTICAL STEPS TO EXTEND WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLING AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT," MR WONG STRESSED.

TURNING TO THE NUMBER OF VACANT CLASSROOMS IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR, MR WONG CITED A TABLE WHICH SHOWED THERE WERE 15,770 CLASSROOMS IN BI-SESSIONAL SCHOOLS OF WHICH 3,164 WERE VACANT, AND THERE WERE 1,260 CLASSROOMS IN WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLS AND 431 OF THESE WERE VACANT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT EACH PHYSICAL CLASSROOM IN BI-SESSIONAL SCHOOLS HAD BEEN COUNTED TWICE IN PREPARING THE TABLE.

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NO PLAN TO REVIEW EDUCATION ALLOWANCES

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLAN TO REVIEW OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCES OR OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS FOR THE TIME BEING, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR DAVID STATED THIS IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RICHARD LAI, WHO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY PLAN TO REVIEW THE OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCES FOR LOCAL CIVIL SERVANTS WHOSE CHILDREN WERE RECEIVING EDUCATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

"CIVIL SERVICE FRINGE BENEFITS WERE RECENTLY CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 1986 PAY LEVEL SURVEY," SIR DAVID SAID.

THERE WAS NO PLAN TO REVIEW OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCES OR OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS FOR THE TIME BEING, BUT THE GOVERNMENT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING HOUSING BENEFITS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS, HE SAID.

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LEGAL LIABILITIES OF OC AND MAC OFFICE-BEARERS EXPLAINED

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IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, OWNERS' CORPORATION AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE OFFICE-BEARERS SHOULD NOT INCUR ANY PERSONAL LEGAL LIABILITIES IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTIES SO LONG AS THEY ACT IN GOOD FAITH AND EXERCISE REASONABLE DILIGENCE IN DISCHARGING THEIR DUTIES.

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, STATED THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI.

MR POON REFERRED TO A RECENT CASE IN WHICH INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF AN OWNERS' CORPORATION (OC) WERE INVOLVED IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AS A RESULT OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE CORPORATION'S BUSINESS.

HE ASKED WHAT WERE THE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER WHEN HE PARTICIPATED IN THE BUSINESS OF AN OC OR MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE (MAC) OR THEIR RESPECTIVE SUB-COMMITTEES.

MR LIAO EXPLAINED IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY THAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF AN OC ACTED AS ITS EXECUTIVE ARM AND THE COMMITTEE HAD TO ABIDE BY RESOLUTIONS OF THE CORPORATION PASSED AT GENERAL MEETINGS.

"THE MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAVE TO MAINTAIN PROPER BOOKS AND OTHER RECORDS OF THE CORPORATION, AND COULD BE HELD LIABLE IF THEY FAILED TO DO SO," HE SAID.

"BUT OTHERWISE SO LONG AS THE MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ACT IN GOOD FAITH AND EXERCISE REASONABLE DILIGENCE IN THE EXERCISE OF THE POWERS CONFERRED ON THEM BY THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE, THEY SHOULD NOT BE HELD PERSONALLY LIABLE FOR THE ACTS OF THE CORPORATION."

NOTING THAT MAC'S WERE NOT BODIES CORPORATE, HE SAID THEY WERE NOT THEREFORE CAPABLE OF BEING SUED INDEPENDENTLY OF THEIR OFFICE-BEARERS, WHO MIGHT BE JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY LIABLE FOR ACTS PURPORTED TO BE MADE ON BEHALF OF THE MAC.

BUT IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SO LONG AS THEY ACTED IN GOOD FAITH AND EXERCISED REASONABLE DILIGENCE, MAC OFFICE-BEARERS SHOULD NOT INCUR LEGAL LIABILITIES IN DISCHARGING THEIR DUTIES.

MR LIAO POINTED OUT THAT AN EXPLANATORY PAMPHLET PRINTED IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH WAS FREELY AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES TO THOSE INTERESTED IN THE WORK OF OC'S AND HOW THEY WERE FORMED.

"THIS PAMPHLET SETS OUT IN LAYMAN'S TERMS THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE, INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND TO ITS POWERS AND DUTIES.

"FROM TIME TO TIME, MANY DISTRICT OFFICES ORGANISE BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINARS FOR OC'S AND MAC'S. VARIOUS ASPECTS OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT ARE COVERED IN THESE SEMINARS, INCLUDING THE OBLIGATIONS OF OC AND MAC OFFICE-BEARERS," HE SAID.

WHERE THERE WERE DOUBTS ON SPECIFIC LEGAL POINTS, INDIVIDUAL OC'S OR MAC'S SHOULD SEEK LEGAL ADVICE, MR LIAO SAID.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT LAST YEAR A TOTAL OF 106 INQUIRIES WERE REFERRED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICES TO THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME OPERATED BY THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG.

AS TO WHAT STEPS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE TO PREVENT CIVIC-MINDED PEOPLE FROM BEING DETERRED FROM TAKING PART IN VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY WORK BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, MR LIAO SAID IT WAS NOT WITHIN GOVERNMENT'S POWER, BY LEGISLATION OR OTHERWISE, TO PREVENT A PERSON FROM BEING JOINED AS A PARTY TO CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

"IF A PERSON BELIEVES THAT HE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE A PARTY TO PROCEEDINGS HE MAY APPLY UNDER THE RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT FOR THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HIM TO BE DISCONTINUED," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD, THROUGH THE LIAISON NETWORK OF THE DISTRICT OFFICES, EXPLAIN THE ABOVE POINTS TO OC AND MAC OFFICE-BEARERS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE THEM ALL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE, MR LIAO ADDED.

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TRAMWAY (AMENDMENT) BILL SUPPORTED

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THE PASSING OF THE TRAMWAY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 WILL ADD A NEW DIMENSION TO TOURISM AND WILL BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO TOURISTS FROM CITIES WHICH HAVE DISMANTLED THEIR TRAMWAY SYSTEMS, THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, MR CHAN SAID THE HIGHER FARES ALLOWED FOR TRAMS ON HIRE OR TOUR SERVICE WOULD NOT AFFECT LOCAL CITIZENS ON THEIR REGULAR TRIPS TO WORK OR FOR SHOPPING.

"IN RECENT YEARS, JOINT EFFORTS BY THE HONG KONG TRAMWAYS LTD AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE GREATLY IMPROVED THE NORMAL TRAM SERVICES," HE NOTED.

MR CHAN CITED SEVERAL POINTS ABOUT NORMAL SERVICES, INCLUDING LOW FARES, GOOD SAFETY RECORD, HIGH CARRYING CAPACITY, EFFECTIVE ENERGY USE, EASY MAINTENANCE AND ABSENCE OF AIR POLLUTION.

WINDING UP DEBATE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID THE BILL ENABLED TRAM SERVICES AS A FORM OF TOURIST ATTRACTION TO BE REGULARISED.

THERE WAS AT THE SAME TIME SUFFICIENT GUARANTEE IN THE BILL TO ENSURE THAT THE SERVICES TO TOURISTS WOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT THE TRAMWAY'S NORMAL SERVICES TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

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AMENDMENTS TO SOCIAL WORK TRAINING FUND ORDINANCE PROPOSED

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PROPOSED MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIAL WORK TRAINING FUND ORDINANCE, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND BY A COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, WERE EXPLAINED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SOCIAL WORK TRAINING FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE MOST SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT RELATED TO THE TABLING OF THE FUND'S REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT IN LEGCO.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT THE ORDINANCE REQUIRED THIS TO BE DONE BY SEPTEMBER 30 EACH YEAR, WHICH HAD PROVED TO BE IMPRACTICABLE BECAUSE THAT DATE ALWAYS FELL WITHIN THE ANNUAL RECESS.

"TO AVOID SPECIFIC APPROVAL HAVING TO BE SOUGHT ON EACH OCCASION FOR LATE TABLING, THE BILL PROPOSES TO CHANGE THE DATE TO DECEMBER 31," HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE OTHER MAIN CHANGE WAS THE REMOVAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES OR HIS NOMINEE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE.

"SINCE THE MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS ARE NOW EMPLOYED IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT THERE IS NO LONGER A NEED FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO BE REPRESENTED," HE SAID.

"AS A CONSEQUENCE THE QUORUM FOR THE COMMITTEE IS TO BE REDUCED FROM FOUR TO THREE."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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ONE BILL PASSED

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THE TRAMWAY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MEANWHILE, THE SOCIAL WORK TRAINING FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 WAS INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATE ON THIS BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1988

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REVIEW OF DISCIPLINED SERVICES' PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO REQUEST THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE TO COMMISSION AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE REVIEW IS DEEMED NECESSARY BECAUSE OF CONSIDERABLE CHANGES IN THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND WORKLOAD OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES SINCE THE CREATION OF SEPARATE DISCIPLINED SERVICES PAY SCALES IN 1979.

FURTHERMORE, THE 1986 PAY LEVEL SURVEY WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO COMMENT ON THE SPECIAL FACTORS APPLICABLE TO THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES, SUCH AS DANGER, STRESS AND RESTRAINT ON PERSONAL FREEDOM.

THE REVIEW WILL HAVE REGARD TO RECENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AND WILL CONSIDER APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF REMUNERATION IN RELATION TO THE REST OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE REVIEW IS TO BE CONDUCTED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN TWO DISTINCT PARTS, DEALING FIRST WITH THE POLICE AND THEREAFTER WITH THE OTHER DISCIPLINED SERVICES.

"PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW, ANY PAY INCREASES FOR THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES WOULD BE IN LINE WITH THOSE AWARDED TO THE REST OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, BUT ANY RECOMMENDATIONS ON PAY LEVEL WHICH ARE IMPLEMENTED SUBSEQUENTLY SHOULD HAVE RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE REVIEW COMMITTEE WILL SUBMIT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR VIA THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

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REVISED EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE FOR LIVESTOCK BREEDERS

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL RECOMMEND A REVISION OF UP TO 11.5 PER CENT IN THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE FOR LIVESTOCK FARMERS AFFECTED BY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, MR LEO KWAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE REVISION WAS AN ADDITION TO THE APPROVED EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE WHICH WAS BASED ON THE RATE OF DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCE WITH AN ENHANCEMENT OF 30 PER CENT.

/THE RECOMMENDED

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1988

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THE RECOMMENDED REVISION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL NEXT WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 10).

MR KWAN, SPEAKING AT A DISCUSSION SESSION AMONG COMMITTEE MEMBERS SAID THAT A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS RAISED BY LIVESTOCK FARMERS REPRESENTATIVES WERE ALSO ACCEPTED.

COVERED AREAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE RAISING OF PIGS AND POULTRY AND THE UPPER LEVEL OF A FARM STRUCTURE WHICH WAS GENUINELY USED FOR PIG RAISING WOULD BE INCLUDED WHEN WORKING OUT THE ALLOWANCE.

CALCULATION OF THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE WOULD BE BASED ON FLOOR AREA RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL ITEMS OF INSTALLATIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER ANY PROPOSALS TO ADVANCE THE DATE OF CONTROL OF AN AREA SO THAT FARMERS IN THAT AREA COULD CEASE BUSINESS AND COLLECT EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES EARLIER, HE ADDED.

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EFFLUENT-FREE PIG RAISING TECHNIQUE DEMONSTRATED

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MEMBERS OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED THE TA KWU LING PIG BREEDING CENTRE TO SEE A DEMONSTRATION OF THE LATEST LIVESTOCK WASTE TREATMENT METHOD - THE EFFLUENT-FREE PIG RAISING TECHNIQUE.

THE COMMITTEE THEN WENT TO A PRIVATE FARM IN NORTH DISTRICT TO SEE HOW THIS NEW TECHNIQUE OPERATES IN A REAL SITUATION.

THE TWO DEMONSTRATIONS WERE ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THE EFFLUENT-FREE PIG RAISING TECHNIQUE IS ONE OF THE FOUR WASTE TREATMENT METHODS THE GOVERNMENT HAVE DEMONSTRATED ON PRIVATE FARMS TO TEST THEIR FEASIBILITY. THE OTHER THREE TECHNIQUES ARE THE WET MUCK-OUT, DRY MUCK-OUT AND HYBRID METHODS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, MR LEO KWAN, CONFIRMED THAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAD REQUESTED THE INCLUSION OF THE EFFLUENT-FREE PIG RAISING TECHNIQUE IN THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THE FARMERS WILL THUS HAVE A WIDER CHOICE OF TREATMENT METHODS TO ENABLE THEM TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS STIPULATED UNDER THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME," HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1988

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FREE VACCINATION FOR BOAT CHILDREN

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LOCAL FISHERMEN AND BOAT DWELLERS ARE ADVISED TO HAVE THEIR CHILDREN VACCINATED AGAINST VARIOUS INFECTIOUS CHILDHOOD DISEASES, A MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

BEGINNING FEBRUARY 10, FREE VACCINATION WILL BE GIVEN TO CHILDREN BETWEEN SIX AND 12 YEARS OLD BELONGING TO THE FISHING COMMUNITY OR LIVING ON BOATS IN CASTLE PEAK BAY.

THIS IS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME FOR THE FISHING PEOPLE IN THE TERRITORY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AT ABOUT 10 AM ON FEBRUARY 10, TWO INOCULATION TEAMS FROM THE WEST NEW TERRITORIES REGION WILL START TO MAKE BOAT-TO-BOAT VISITS OF ALL DWELLING BOATS AND FISHING VESSELS IN THE CASTLE PEAK BAY TYPHOON SHELTER.

"THE VACCINATION PROGRAMME WILL COVER DISEASES SUCH AS MEASLES, DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS AND POLIOMYELITIS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE BOAT PEOPLE ARE ADVISED TO STAY ON THEIR BOATS THAT DAY SO THAT THEIR CHILDREN CAN BE VACCINATED," HE ADDED.

THE TWO TEAMS WILL RETURN TO THE TYPHOON SHELTER ON FEBRUARY 11 AND 12 TO ENSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN HAVE BEEN VACCINATED.

INFORMATION LEAFLETS ON THE PREVENTION AND IMMUNISATION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES WILL ALSO BE DISTRIBUTED TO BOAT PEOPLE DURING THE THREE-DAY PERIOD.

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN CANDIDATES MEET THE MEDIA

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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM KAM-KWONG, WILL INTRODUCE THE CANDIDATES FOR THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS TO THE MEDIA AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 5) AFTERNOON.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 3.30 PM IN THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1988

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DB TO DISCUSS NULLAH POLLUTION

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THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE INFORMED ABOUT A STUDY ON POLLUTION PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE MONG KOK NULLAH AT A MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE BOARD IS WORRIED THAT THE SMELL COMING FROM THE OPEN SECTION OF THE NULLAH AT THE JUNCTION OF MONG KOK ROAD AND CANTON ROAD WOULD DETER RESIDENTS FROM GOING TO A SITTING-OUT AREA PLANNED TO BE BUILT IN THE VICINITY.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CALLED IN TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCES OF POLLUTION AND TO WORK OUT THE SOLUTIONS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO REVIEW THE WORK OF THE CURRENT TERM OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND SUGGEST FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE NEW DISTRICT BOARD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

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YUEN LONG DB TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF YUEN LONG NEW TOWN, TIN SHUI WAI AND THE NORTHWESTERN NEW TERRITORIES.

THE PROGRAMME CORRELATES THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACES WITH THE FORECASTS OF POPULATION, LAND SALES AND FUNDS REQUIRED.

MEMBERS' VIEWS WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT ON THE PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT.

/DISTRICT BOARD

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1988

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DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER MR TAI CHIN-WAH WILL ASK ABOUT THE MARKET ACTIVITIES OF VEGETABLE HAWKERS AT KIN TAK STREET AND THE PRESENT POLICY REGULATING THE USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR IN YUEN LONG AS WELL AS PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEES UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

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COMMUNITY DAY TO INTRODUCE JUNK BAY NEW TOWN

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REPRESENTATIVES FROM SAI KUNG VILLAGES, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS' CORPORATIONS WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SAI KUNG COMMUNITY DAY TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

PARTICIPANTS WILL FIRST VISIT THE JUNK BAY NEW TOWN AND ATTEND A SEMINAR AT THE CARMEL DIVINE GRACE FOUNDATION SECONDARY SCHOOL WHERE THEY WILL BE BRIEFED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

TWO TOWN PLANNERS FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES SOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, MR HUI WAI-KEUNG AND MR CHENG CHI-HO, WILL GIVE DETAILS OF THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT, LAND USAGE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES OF JUNK BAY NEW TOWN.

THE HOUSING MANAGER OF THE TSUI LAM ESTATE, MR KOK SIU-HANG, WILL CONCENTRATE ON INTRODUCING THE PO LAM AND TSUI LAM ESTATES IN JUNK BAY, THE FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED THERE AS WELL AS THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME IN THE AREA.

THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS BETTY CHING, WILL BRIEF PARTICIPANTS ON THE WORK OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD AND ON THE COMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

PUBLICITY MATERIALS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE JUNK BAY NEW TOWN AND NOTES FOR DISTRICT BOARD ELECTORS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.

/THE SEMINAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1988

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THE SEMINAR WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION AND A TOUR OF PO LAM ESTATE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SAI KUNG COMMUNITY DAY AND VISIT TO JUNK BAY NEW TOWN TOMORROW (THURSDAY). TRANSPORT FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER, NEXT TO STAR FERRY, TSIM SHA TSUI, AT 9.45 AM.

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OUTREACH DENTAL SERVICES FOR ISLANDERS

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A TEAM OF DENTAL STAFF UNDER THE OUTREACH DENTAL SCHEME OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT, AFTER PROVIDING FREE SERVICES TO RESIDENTS IN TUNG CHUNG ON LANTAU FOR SEVEN MONTHS, WILL MOVE TO PAK MONG ON THE ISLAND FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE TEAM, WHICH COMPRISES A DENTIST AND TWO DENTAL ASSISTANTS, WILL VISIT THE PAK MONG COMMUNITY CENTRE ONE DAY A WEEK TO PROVIDE CHECK-UP, EXTRACTION AND SIMPLE FILLING SERVICES. THEY WILL ALSO DISTRIBUTE PAMPHLETS ON DENTAL HEALTH.

THE OUTREACH DENTAL SCHEME, WHICH WAS PROPOSED BY THE ADVENTIST HOSPITAL AND ORGANISED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN TUNG CHUNG AND IS THEREFORE MOVING TO PAK MONG.

A BRIEF CEREMONY TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE SERVICE IN PAK MONG WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 11 AM TOMORROW.

THE DENTIST-IN-CHARGE, DR PETER TREPPER, AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE MUI WO RURAL COMMITTEE, MR LAM KUT-SHING, WILL BE PRESENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE OUTREACH DENTAL SERVICES HELD AT THE PAK MONG COMMUNITY CENTRE ON LANTAU AT 11 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO TAKE THE GOVERNMENT LAUNCH MD 17 WHICH WILL LEAVE THE MARINE DEPARTMENT PIER, CENTRAL, AT 8.45 AM.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1988

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 5) AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS 283 APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS FOR THE 1988-89 FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE FUNDS INVOLVED WILL AMOUNT TO \$1,428,159.

OF THESE APPLICATIONS, 238 APPLICATIONS TOTALLING \$1,112,892 ARE FROM MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND BUILDING ORGANISATIONS; 14 APPLICATIONS TOTALLING \$113,358 ARE FROM YIN NGAI SOCIETIES, COMMUNITY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND AREA COMMITTEES; WHILE 31 APPLICATIONS TOTALLING \$201,909 ARE FROM VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER OTHER FUND APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE FOR THE TOWN CENTRE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION, A STUDY ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN SHA TIN, THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD TERM REPORT, AND FOR SPONSORING THE SHA TIN STAR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE PROPOSED ESTIMATES FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR; THE FINANCIAL POSITION AND PROGRESS OF DISTRICT BOARD SPONSORED ACTIVITIES; AND REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUPS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 3 PM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 5) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

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SEMINAR ON ROLE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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THE HONG KONG EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATORS' ASSOCIATION (HKEACA) WILL HOLD A SEMINAR ON THE ROLE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON STUDENT GUIDANCE AT THE SPACE MUSEUM IN TSIM SHA TSUI ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 5).

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AND ADDRESS THE GATHERING OF ABOUT 170 TEACHERS.

/OTHER SPEAKERS

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OTHER SPEAKERS AT THE SEMINAR WILL BE THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS, MRS ROSANNA TAM, AND LECTURER OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, MR FUNG YEE-WANG.

THE HKEACA WAS ESTABLISHED IN MAY 1984 TO PROMOTE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS; TO FOSTER AN OVERALL DEVELOPMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE; TO DEVELOP EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF SECONDARY EDUCATION; AND TO ENHANCE THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATORS AND TEACHERS SERVING AS ADVISERS TO VARIOUS CLUBS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEMINAR AT THE SPACE MUSEUM, TSIM SHA TSUI, AT 9.15 AM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 5).

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CAUSEWAY BAY RESTRICTED ZONE TO BE EXTENDED

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THE EXISTING 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY RESTRICTED ZONE FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF JARDINE'S BAZAAR IN CAUSEWAY BAY BETWEEN JARDINE'S CRESENT AND HENNESSY ROAD WILL BE EXTENDED TO ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES.

THIS MEASURE WILL BE EFFECTIVE FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 6).

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1988

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RESTRICTED ZONES IN WAN CHAI

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THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN WAN CHAI WILL BE DESIGNATED AS
7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY RESTRICTED ZONES FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY
(FEBRUARY 6):

- * LOCKHART ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 179 AND 211;
- * FLEMING ROAD NORTHBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH LOCKHART
ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 38 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION;
AND
- * FLEMING ROAD SOUTHBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH LOCKHART
ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES NORTH OF THAT JUNCTION.

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

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