



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1991

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1991

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HK IS VERY WORTHWHILE PLACE TO SERVE: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HE WILL GO ON SERVING HONG KONG AS LONG AS HE IS ASKED TO, AND AS LONG AS HE FEELS HE CAN DO A GOOD JOB, BECAUSE THIS JOB MATTERS TO HIM ENORMOUSLY.

"I THINK HONG KONG IS A VERY WORTHWHILE PLACE," SIR DAVID SAID.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A VISIT TO THE NORTH DISTRICT, HE SAID HE WAS AMUSED BY RECENT SPECULATION ABOUT HIS FUTURE: "I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE HAD A LOT OF FUN WRITING A LOT OF ARTICLES ABOUT IT."

THE GOVERNOR SAID HIS OWN FUTURE WAS NOT IN HIS OWN HANDS, AND THE APPOINTMENT WAS BY THE QUEEN'S PLEASURE WHICH MEANT ON THE ADVICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER. "SO I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW LONG I SHALL SERVE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

ASKED IF HE WISHED TO SERVE UNTIL 1997, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I'M NOT SURE. I'VE SAID IN THE PAST THAT I THINK FOR SOMEONE TO STAY HERE FOR AS LONG AS 10 YEARS IS A VERY LONG TIME."

"IN HISTORY THERE HAS ONLY BEEN ONE GOVERNOR, POSSIBLY TWO; ONE, SIR ALEXANDER GRANTHAM WAS HERE FOR JUST ABOUT 10 YEARS, AND IT'S A VERY, VERY LONG TIME. SO I DON'T MYSELF EXPECT TO BE HERE ALL THAT LONG, BUT THAT IS NOT IN MY OWN HANDS.

TURNING TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS THE CHANCE FOR PEOPLE TO SHOW WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE INTERESTED IN ELECTIONS.

"AND IF THEY ARE INTERESTED AS I BELIEVE AND HOPE THEY ARE, THEN I HOPE THEY WILL TURN OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS TOMORROW AND ON SUNDAY.

"I HOPE THEY WILL TURN OUT EARLY BECAUSE IF THE NUMBERS ARE ON A SORT OF LEVELS PREDICTED, THERE COULD BE QUITE A SQUASH ABOUT THE EVENING TIME," HE SAID.

ASKED IF HE WOULD CONSIDER APPOINTING DIRECTLY ELECTED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR DAVID SAID HE WOULD NOT MAKE THESE DECISIONS UNTIL A LITTLE BIT OF TIME AFTER THE ELECTIONS.

"BUT WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH EXCO IS MAKE SURE WE HAVE THE RIGHT SORT OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EXCO AND LEGCO. SO YOU NEED AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WHICH FOLLOWS THE RULES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WHICH IS THAT THEY OPERATE AS A COLLECTIVE BODY TAKING DECISIONS; THAT EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON THERE IS CONFIDENTIAL.

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"AND YOU WANT GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN EXCO AND LEGCO WHICH MEANS TRYING TO HAVE ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PEOPLE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. SO I WILL TRY TO SELECT PEOPLE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; AND I WILL LOOK FOR GOOD CANDIDATES WHO WILL SERVE HONG KONG WELL. THAT'S THE CRITERIA," SIR DAVID SAID.

"I WILL LOOK AT THE QUALITY OF THE PEOPLE, AS WELL AS EXACTLY WHERE THEY'VE COME FROM. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A RANGE OF PEOPLE INCLUDING DIRECTLY ELECTED, FUNCTIONAL AND OTHER PEOPLE AS WELL," HE ADDED.

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GOVERNOR IMPRESSED WITH BLEND OF OLD AND NEW

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAW FOR HIMSELF THE HARMONIOUS BLEND OF THE OLD AND THE NEW IN THE NORTH DISTRICT TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HIS VISIT THERE TOOK HIM TO THE TANG CHUNG LING ANCESTRAL HALL WHICH WAS BUILT IN 1525 AND THE NEWLY-COMPLETED WAH MING ESTATE IN FANLING.

SIR DAVID DISCUSSED WITH VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES PROGRESS OF THE \$2.65 MILLION RENOVATION WORK OF THE HALL WHICH HAS BEEN CONFERRED DEEMED MONUMENT STATUS.

IN CONTRAST TO THIS TRADITIONAL VILLAGE SETTING, HE SAW MODERN LIVING IN THE DISTRICT AS HE WALKED THROUGH WAH MING ESTATE AND VISITED A FAMILY THERE.

THE ESTATE, WITH A PLANNED POPULATION OF 19,000, OCCUPIES SEVEN TRIDENT BLOCKS, A COMMERCIAL CENTRE AND COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, EDUCATIONAL AND WELFARE FACILITIES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALBERT LAM, AND THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM HUI, THE GOVERNOR ALSO SAW HOW RESIDENTS ENJOYED THEMSELVES AT THE LUNG SUM AVENUE INDOOR RECREATION CENTRE WHERE JUDO, BALLET AND TABLE TENNIS CLASSES WERE BEING CONDUCTED.

HIS PROGRAMME TODAY ALSO INCLUDED A BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FANLING NEW TOWN, VISIT TO A CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE, AND A TEA RECEPTION WHERE HE MET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHER LOCAL PERSONALITIES.

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CHIEF SECRETARY IN TOKYO

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MEMBERS OF THE JAPAN/HONG KONG PARLIAMENTARY LEAGUE WERE GIVEN A BRIEFING IN TOKYO TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG AND THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT, BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD.

SIR DAVID SAID THERE WERE ALREADY EXTENSIVE AND STRONG COMMERCIAL, BANKING, TRADING AND INVESTMENT LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND JAPAN.

"HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT AS THE POLITICAL SYSTEM DEVELOPS IN HONG KONG AND THE LEGISLATORS HAVE AN INCREASING IMPACT ON POLICIES, THAT LINKS ARE DEVELOPED BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE DIET AND THE HONG KONG LEGISLATURE."

SIR DAVID SAID THIS HAD BEEN RECOGNISED WITH THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LEAGUE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MR TSUTOMU HATA, A MEMBER OF JAPAN'S RULING LIBERAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP).

THE CHIEF SECRETARY REPEATED THE INVITATION TO LEAGUE MEMBERS TO VISIT HONG KONG EITHER TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR OR NEXT YEAR.

HE SAID MR HATA WAS ANXIOUS TO WIDEN THE GROUP TO INCLUDE SOME OPPOSITION MEMBERS. AS SOON AS THE PRESENT MEETING OF THE DIET WAS OVER, HE WOULD BE TURNING HIS ATTENTION TO THE LEAGUE WITH A VIEW TO VISITING HONG KONG IN THE NEW YEAR.

DURING TODAY'S MEETING, MEMBERS OF THE GROUP EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN HONG KONG AFFAIRS, INCLUDING THE AIRPORT AND SUNDAY'S DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID IN THE MEETING THAT PLANS WERE IN HAND TO UPGRADE THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN TOKYO WITH THE POSTING OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICER, MR DAVID LAN, BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

HE SAID THE MOVE WAS A REFLECTION OF HONG KONG'S GROWING INTEREST IN JAPAN.

SIR DAVID IS IN TOKYO WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, MR RICHARD ALLEN, TO BRIEF JAPANESE BANKERS, CONTRACTORS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT.

THEY HAD A FURTHER SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH TOP BANKING OFFICIALS AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, INCLUDING THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE BUREAU OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY.

SIR DAVID ALSO HAD A 30-MINUTE MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER, DR TARO NAKAYAMA.

TOMORROW, MR ALLEN AND THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR STEPHEN SELBY, WILL BRIEF SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF MORE THAN 30 JAPANESE BANKS ABOUT THE AIRPORT PROJECT. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY CLOSING REMARKS FROM THE CHIEF SECRETARY BEFORE A WORKING LUNCHEON WITH SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP BANKERS.

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ELECTORS URGED TO CAST THEIR VOTES IN LEGCO ELECTIONS

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THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPEALS TO ELECTORS OF ALL CONTESTED FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES TO FIND TIME TO VOTE FOR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW.

MR SUEN ALSO CALLS ON ALL INDIVIDUAL ELECTORS OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, TOGETHER WITH THE 1.9 MILLION ELECTORS ON THE GENERAL ROLL, TO KEEP UP THEIR EFFORTS AND TURN OUT TO VOTE IN THE DIRECT ELECTIONS ON SUNDAY.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE LEGCO ELECTIONS, MR SUEN SAID THROUGH VOTE CASTING, ELECTORS COULD DEMONSTRATE THEIR FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY'S POLITICAL SYSTEM.

TOMORROW, 28 CANDIDATES WOULD VIE FOR THE NINE SEATS IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES. ANOTHER 12 CANDIDATES HAD ALREADY RETURNED UNCONTESTED TO THE REMAINING 12 SEATS.

AS FOR THE DIRECT ELECTIONS ON SUNDAY, 54 CANDIDATES WOULD RUN FOR 18 SEATS IN NINE GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES.

THERE WOULD BE 35 POLLING STATIONS FOR TOMORROW'S FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS WHICH WOULD BE OPENED TO 48,000 VOTERS.

SINCE THE ELECTORATE OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WAS RELATIVELY SMALL, VOTING WOULD TAKE PLACE FROM 2.30 PM TO 3.30 PM.

POLLING FOR THE OTHER FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WOULD LAST FOR 15 HOURS FROM 7.30 AM TO 10.30 PM.

THE VOTE COUNTING WOULD BE CARRIED OUT CENTRALLY IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY FOR WHICH COUNTING WOULD TAKE PLACE AT THE POLLING STATION AFTER THE POLLING.

"IT IS THEREFORE LIKELY THAT THE ELECTION RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY CAN BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE 5 PM TOMORROW," MR SUEN SAID.

AS FOR THE OTHER CONSTITUENCIES, HE SAID THE RESULTS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED FROM BEFORE THE MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY TO AROUND 4 AM ON FRIDAY.

PREFERENTIAL ELIMINATION VOTING SYSTEM, WHICH WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE "FIRST-PAST-THE-POST" SYSTEM USED FOR THE DIRECT ELECTIONS, HAD BEEN ADOPTED FOR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS.

VOTERS WERE REQUIRED TO INDICATE THEIR ORDER OF PREFERENCE FOR THE CANDIDATES BY WRITING DOWN ARABIC NUMERALS ON THE BALLOT PAPERS.

THEY HAD TO FILL IN THEIR FIRST CHOICE, AND THEN THEY MIGHT AS THEY WISH CHOOSE OTHER CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE.

THERE WAS NO RESTRICTION ON THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES CHOSEN.

FOR THE DIRECT ELECTIONS, MR SUEN SAID, ALL 354 POLLING STATIONS WOULD BE OPENED FROM 7.30 AM TO 10.30 PM ON POLLING DAY.

"AS SUNDAY IS A HOLIDAY, VOTERS WILL HAVE AMPLE TIME TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE," MR SUEN SAID.

MR SUEN SAID HE HOPED THAT VOTERS WOULD BRING ALONG THEIR POLL CARDS TO THE POLLING STATIONS BECAUSE THIS WOULD SPEED UP THE VOTING PROCEDURES.

BUT IF THE VOTERS HAD LOST THEIR CARDS OR THEIR CARDS WERE NOT WITH THEM, THIS SHOULD NOT PREVENT THEM FROM VOTING.

"ALL THEY NEED TO DO IS TO SHOW THEIR IDENTITY CARDS," HE SAID.

POLL CARDS HAD BEEN ISSUED TO ALL VOTERS TWO WEEKS AGO. DETAILS SUCH AS THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE DESIGNATED POLLING STATION, PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF VOTERS AND SO ON WERE PRINTED ON THE CARD.

DUE TO GEOGRAPHICAL CONDITIONS AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS, NOT ALL POLLING STATIONS WERE EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.

HENCE, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR THOSE VOTERS WHO HAD DIFFICULTY GETTING ABOUT OR WERE PHYSICALLY DISABLED, AND WHOSE DESIGNATED POLLING STATIONS WERE NOT EASILY ACCESSIBLE, MIGHT CONTACT THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE.

"THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE HAS ALREADY IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF POLLING STATIONS IN EACH CONSTITUENCY WHICH ARE SUITABLE FOR THESE VOTERS. THE CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 827 1122," THE SECRETARY SAID.

WHEN A VOTER ARRIVED AT HIS DESIGNATED POLLING STATION, HIS IDENTITY AS A REGISTERED VOTER WOULD FIRST BE VERIFIED. HE WOULD THEN RECEIVE A BALLOT PAPER.

"ALL HE NEEDS TO DO IS TO MARK AN 'X' IN THE BOX(ES) ADJACENT TO THE NAME(S) OF HIS SELECTED CANDIDATE(S), FOLD UP THE PAPER, AND PUT IT IN THE BALLOT BOX," THE SECRETARY SAID.

ALL GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES WERE DOUBLE-SEATED AND EACH VOTER COULD VOTE FOR UP TO TWO CANDIDATES.

DUE TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL RESTRICTIONS OF SOME POLLING STATIONS WHICH MIGHT NOT BE SUFFICIENTLY SPACIOUS FOR CANVASSING ACTIVITIES, MR SUEN SAID A BUFFER ZONE WOULD BE SET UP OUTSIDE THOSE POLLING STATIONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE PROBLEMS IN MAINTAINING ORDER.

IN THE BUFFER ZONE, EACH CANDIDATE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO STATION ONE TO TWO PEOPLE TO CANVASS VOTES FOR HIM.

"THE RETURNING OFFICER OF EACH CONSTITUENCY HAS ALREADY BRIEFED THE CANDIDATES ON THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT AND HAS SECURED THEIR SUPPORT," HE SAID.

"I BELIEVE IT WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING ORDER OUTSIDE POLLING STATIONS," HE ADDED.

MR SUEN SAID VOTE COUNTING WOULD BE CONDUCTED AT THE COUNTING CENTRE IN EACH CONSTITUENCY.

"OWING TO THE DOUBLE-SEAT ARRANGEMENT AND THE LARGE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES, TOGETHER WITH AN EXPECTED HIGH VOTER TURNOUT, COUNTING WILL TAKE MORE TIME THAN PREVIOUSLY," HE SAID.

TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS, MR SUEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD INSTALLED A VOTE COUNTING MACHINE AT EACH COUNTING CENTRE.

"DESPITE THIS, THE ELECTION RESULTS WILL PROBABLY BE AVAILABLE AT A LATER TIME THAN BEFORE.

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, WE DO NOT EXPECT PRELIMINARY RESULTS TO BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE MONDAY MORNING," HE SAID.

IF EVERYTHING WENT WELL, MR SUEN EXPECTED THE RESULTS WOULD BEGIN TO COME IN AROUND 8 AM THAT MORNING.

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GOVT ACCEPTS REFORMS FOR LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS ACCEPTED A SERIES OF PROPOSALS PUT FORTH BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ESSENCE OF THE PROPOSALS IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION ON OUR SCHOOL BY MINIMISING MIXED-CODE TEACHING. THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED BY GROUPING STUDENTS IN TERMS OF THEIR ABILITY TO LEARN IN CHINESE OR ENGLISH AS DETERMINED THROUGH OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENTS AT PRIMARY 6.

"SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO CHOOSE, IN 1994, WHETHER TO BE CHINESE-MEDIUM, ENGLISH-MEDIUM OR TWO MEDIUM SCHOOLS AND TO CHOOSE THE PROPORTION OF CLASSES IN EACH MEDIUM TO BEST MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR STUDENT INTAKE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO DEVELOP, TEST AND ADMINISTER ATTAINMENT TARGETS AND RELATED ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS FOR CHINESE AND ENGLISH AT PRIMARY 6 AND SECONDARY 3.

"REGULAR REVIEWS WILL BE CONDUCTED TO MONITOR PROGRESS AND TO CONSIDER WHETHER STRONGER MEASURES MAY BE NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF ENCOURAGING CHINESE-MEDIUM INSTRUCTION AND MINIMISING MIXED-CODE TEACHING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN ACCEPTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF ENHANCING ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES AT PRIMARY 5 AND 6 TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF PRIMARY STUDENTS' ENGLISH.

CONCERNING BRIDGING COURSES, THE COUNCIL ENDORSED PROPOSALS
FOR:

- * AN ENGLISH BRIDGING COURSE DURING SECONDARY 1 TO UPGRADE THE LANGUAGE STANDARD OF THESE CROSSING FROM PRIMARY 6 INTO ENGLISH-MEDIUM CLASSES;
- * THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH THE MEANS BY WHICH SOME CHINESE-MEDIUM STUDENTS COULD SUCCESSFULLY TRANSFER TO ENGLISH-MEDIUM CLASSES AT THE END OF SECONDARY 3;
- * THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO EXPLORE WAYS IN WHICH A BRIDGING COURSE MIGHT BE PROVIDED AT THE END OF SECONDARY 3 TO ASSIST SOME CHINESE-MEDIUM STUDENTS TRANSFERRING TO ENGLISH-MEDIUM CLASSES;
- * ENGLISH-MEDIUM STUDENTS WHO CANNOT BENEFIT FROM STUDYING IN THE MEDIUM BECAUSE OF LOW PROFICIENCY IN THE LANGUAGE TO BE ABLE TO TRANSFER TO CHINESE-MEDIUM CLASSES IN SECONDARY 4 AND, FURTHER, THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SHOULD ESTABLISH THE MEANS FOR THEM TO DO SO, INCLUDING A BRIDGING COURSE IF NECESSARY;
- * AN APPROPRIATE GENERAL ENGLISH COURSE TO BE PROVIDED FOR SECONDARY 5 CHINESE-MEDIUM STUDENTS WHO ARE JOINING THE WORKFORCE, POSSIBLY DURING THE SUMMER;
- * APPROPRIATE VOCATIONAL ENGLISH COURSES, DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF SPECIFIC TYPES OF OCCUPATION, TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS FROM CHINESE-MEDIUM AND ENGLISH-MEDIUM BACKGROUNDS WHO ARE ABOUT TO TAKE UP OR HAVE ALREADY TAKEN UP EMPLOYMENT, FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THEIR EDUCATION AT SECONDARY 5 OR 7;
- * A BRIDGING COURSE TO BE PROVIDED TO ALLOW STUDENTS WHO HAVE STUDIED IN THE MEDIUM OF CHINESE TO IMPROVE THEIR ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS PRIOR TO THEIR ENTRY INTO TERTIARY EDUCATION;
- * THE PRODUCTION OF MORE EDUCATIONAL TV PROGRAMMES TO BE CONSIDERED;
- * A LANGUAGES IN EDUCATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT BE FORMED IN THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES; AND
- * CONSIDERATION TO BE GIVEN TO PROVIDING IN-SERVICE, REFRESHER COURSES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS USING ENGLISH AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, FOR THE TEACHING OF SUBJECTS OTHER THAN ENGLISH.

IN ACCEPTING THESE REFORMS, THE COUNCIL HAS NOTED THAT A GUIDING PRINCIPLE BEHIND THESE REFORMS IS THAT SECONDARY SCHOOLS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO USE CHINESE AS THEIR MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION AS TEACHING AND LEARNING IS GENERALLY MORE EFFECTIVE IF MOTHER TONGUE IS USED.

IT IS ALSO NOTED THAT INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS SHOULD DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES WHETHER THEIR MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION SHOULD BE ENGLISH OR CHINESE AND THE USE OF MIXED-CODE SHOULD BE REDUCED IN FAVOUR OF THE CLEAR AND CONSISTENT USE OF CHINESE AND ENGLISH IN RESPECT OF TEACHING, TEXTBOOKS AND EXAMINATIONS.

EVIDENCE OF THEIR STUDENTS' ABILITY TO LEARN IN EITHER LANGUAGE AS PRESENTED BY THE NEW ASSESSMENT TESTS, AS WELL AS FIRM GUIDANCE GIVEN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, WILL ENSURE THAT THE APPROPRIATE MEDIUM IS USED BY 1998-99.

THIS REFORM PROPOSAL IS THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4 SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION FOLLOWING A TWO-MONTH PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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TIME FOR NEW APPROACH TO PUBLIC HEALTH

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TIME IS NOW RIGHT FOR HONG KONG TO ADOPT A NEW APPROACH TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, WHEN SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DR LEE REVIEWED THE CHANGES WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH SCENE IN HONG KONG OVER THE PAST SIX DECADES.

HE RECALLED THAT THE PREDOMINANT PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEMS DURING THE SINO-JAPANESE WAR IN THE 1930'S, WHEN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES FLED FROM CHINA TO HONG KONG, WERE INADEQUATE HOUSING, WATER SUPPLY, AND POOR SANITATION.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES SUCH AS CHOLERA, TUBERCULOSIS AND SMALL POX WERE RAMPANT.

DR LEE SAID MEASURES TAKEN IN THOSE DAYS TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION WAS MAINLY ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, NAMELY SANITATION, HOUSING, SAFE WATER SUPPLY AND FOOD HYGIENE.

IN THE 1950'S AND 1960'S, HE ADDED, MOVES TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF THE POPULATION WERE FOCUSED ON PERSONAL PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES SUCH AS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH, IMMUNISATION AND SCHOOL HEALTH.

"FOLLOWING A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN THE NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE NEXT TWO DECADES, PUBLIC HEALTH IN HONG KONG ENTERED A NEW ERA -- A 'THERAPEUTIC' ERA -- WITH EMPHASIS SHIFTED TO HOSPITAL-BASED SERVICES," DR LEE SAID.

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"THE ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF HOSPITAL BEDS MADE AVAILABLE IN THE 1970'S AND 1980'S TOTALLED 6,300, AS COMPARED WITH 3,760 IN THE PRECEDING TWO DECADES."

THE DIRECTOR SAID TOWARDS THE END OF THE 1970'S, MOST COUNTRIES FACED A PROBLEM OF AN INCREASING COST IN HEALTH CARE AND THEY BEGAN TO CHALLENGE WHETHER THIS WAS A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY OF PROVIDING HEALTH CARE.

DR LEE SAID THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC) SETS OUT THE OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF DEVELOPING PHC IN HONG KONG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THOSE OF THE WHO.

"THIS REPORT," HE ADDED, "FORMS THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH WE WILL BUILD OUR NEW PUBLIC HEALTH THAT WILL TAKE US INTO THE 21ST CENTURY."

HE SAID THE OVERALL PHILOSOPHY OF THE NEW PUBLIC HEALTH PLACES STRONG EMPHASIS ON THE PREVENTIVE AND PROMOTIVE ASPECTS OF HEALTH CARE, STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTENANCE OF GOOD HEALTH, QUALITY AND CONTINUITY OF CARE AND PARTICIPATION OF THE INDIVIDUALS AND THE COMMUNITY.

DR LEE CALLED FOR CO-OPERATION IN THE PROMOTION OF GOOD HEALTH AND THE PREVENTION OF DISEASES, ADDING THAT THE PRESENT REFORMS IN HOSPITAL AND PHC SERVICES PROVIDE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY.

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FURTHER ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES TO BE PURSUED

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IN PURSUANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE TO DISCOURAGE SMOKING ON HEALTH GROUNDS, LEGISLATIVE MEASURES WILL BE INTRODUCED TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSALS ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL LAST YEAR.

THESE WILL FURTHER RESTRICT THE USE, SALE AND PROMOTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

THE PROPOSALS ARE CONTAINED IN THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (AMENDMENT) BILL, WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON SEPTEMBER 20.

UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, SMOKING IS ALREADY PROHIBITED IN PUBLIC LIFTS AND PART OF ENTERTAINMENT HALLS SUCH AS CINEMAS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES.

THE BILL PROVIDES FOR A TOTAL BAN ON SMOKING IN CINEMAS, THEATRES, CONCERT HALLS, AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT CARRIERS INCLUDING TAXIS WHEN CARRYING PASSENGERS, BUT EXCLUDING PRIVATE AND CONTRACT HIRE VEHICLES.

AT PRESENT, THE LAW REQUIRES SIGNS TO BE DISPLAYED IN NO SMOKING AREAS TO INDICATE THAT SMOKING IS PROHIBITED. IT IS PROPOSED IN THE BILL THAT THESE SIGNS SHOULD ALSO CONTAIN A STATEMENT OF THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR SMOKING IN A NO-SMOKING AREA.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROPOSED MEASURES AIMED TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC FURTHER ABOUT THE HEALTH RISKS OF SMOKING.

"IT IS PROPOSED, THEREFORE, THAT THE EXISTING SINGLE GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING BE REPLACED BY STRONGER AND MORE PRECISE MESSAGES AND THAT THESE SHOULD BE USED IN ROTATION.

"FURTHERMORE, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE HEALTH WARNING AND TAR GROUP DESIGNATION SHOULD APPEAR ON THE TWO LARGEST SURFACES OF CIGARETTE PACKETS AND CARTONS. SIMILARLY, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE HEALTH WARNING PANEL ON CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS SHOULD BE ENLARGED TO 20 PER CENT OF THE SURFACE AND THAT THE WARNING MESSAGE, AND TAR GROUP DESIGNATION WHERE REQUIRED, SHOULD OCCUPY AT LEAST 40 PER CENT OF THE AREA OF THE WARNING PANEL." HE SAID.

THE BILL WOULD ALSO REQUIRE HEALTH WARNINGS ON OUTDOOR CIGARETTE ADVERTISING SIGNS TO BE CLEARLY VISIBLE AND LEGIBLE, WITHOUT OBSTRUCTION AND WITH PROPER LIGHTING WHERE APPROPRIATE.

THERE IS NO LIMIT AT PRESENT ON THE TAR CONTENT OF CIGARETTES IN HONG KONG.

"IN KEEPING WITH THE WORLD TREND TO RESTRICT THE TAR CONTENT, THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO IMPOSE A MAXIMUM TAR CONTENT OF 20 MILLIGRAMS PER CIGARETTE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES THAT THE PROMOTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS SHOULD BE RESTRICTED FURTHER BY THE INTRODUCTION OF A TOTAL BAN ON CIGARETTE ADVERTISING IN CINEMAS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID "CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENT" WOULD BE MORE PRECISELY DEFINED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THOSE WHICH PROMOTED SMOKING AND THOSE WHICH ADVERTISED SPONSORSHIP BY COMPANIES WHOSE LINE OF BUSINESS INCLUDED TOBACCO PRODUCTS, IN WHICH THE MERE MENTION OF THE NAME OF THE COMPANY HAS NO DIRECT EFFECT OF PROMOTING SMOKING.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE FIRST CATEGORY SHOULD CARRY HEALTH WARNINGS WHILE EXEMPTIONS WOULD APPLY TO THOSE IN THE SECOND CATEGORY PROVIDED THAT THE NAME OF THE COMPANY DOES NOT CONTAIN THE WORD "TOBACCO" OR "CIGARETTE" OR "SMOKING".

EXISTING PENALTIES HAVE NOT BEEN REVISED SINCE THE EARLY 1980'S.

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IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR INDIVIDUAL OFFENDERS SHOULD BE INCREASED BY 100 PER CENT AND THOSE FOR CORPORATE OFFENDERS BY 200 PER CENT.

IN IMPLEMENTING THE NEW MEASURES, THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO ALLOW A REASONABLE LEAD TIME. MOST OF THE NEW MEASURES WOULD NOT COME INTO EFFECT UNTIL SIX MONTHS AFTER THE BILL IS PASSED. THOSE FOR PROHIBITION ON THE SALE OF CIGARETTES WITH A TAR CONTENT EXCEEDING 20 MILLIGRAMS, THE REVISED DEFINITION OF CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENT AND THE REVISED LEVELS OF PENALTY FOR CERTAIN OFFENCES WOULD COME INTO EFFECT ONLY 12 MONTHS AFTER THE BILL IS PASSED.

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ALTERNATIVE PROCESS TO RESOLVE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT DISPUTES

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ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) WILL BE THE NORMAL METHOD OF RESOLVING DISPUTES IN ALL FUTURE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS WHICH IS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT POLICY TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS ON CONTRACT PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE AIRPORT CORE PROJECTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR PAUL CORSER, AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE NOTED THAT AS PUBLIC BUILDING PROJECTS HAD BECOME LARGER AND MORE COMPLEX, THERE WOULD BE A GROWTH OF DISPUTES BETWEEN THE CONTRACTOR AND THE GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A DETERIORATION OF WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND CONTRIBUTE TO COST OVER-RUNS ON GOVERNMENT PROJECTS.

MR CORSER SAID ADR, WHICH WAS WIDELY AND SUCCESSFULLY USED IN THE UNITED STATES, WAS A FAST, INEXPENSIVE WAY OF RESOLVING CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT DISPUTES WITHOUT REFERRING TO ARBITRATION OR THE COURTS.

"ONE OF THE CHIEF ADVANTAGES OF ADR IS THAT THE PARTIES MAINTAIN A GOOD NON-CONFRONTATIONAL RELATIONSHIP, WHICH COULD BE JEOPARDISED IN AN ARBITRATION OR COURT HEARING," HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT MEDIATION RULES ADMINSTRATED BY THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE, ADR HAS VARIOUS FORMS AND IS "A VOLUNTARY, NON-BINDING DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS IN WHICH A NEUTRAL PERSON HELPS THE PARTIES TRY TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT".

MR CORSER SAID THE THREE FORMS OF ADR WHICH HAD BEEN UTILISED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WERE "MEDIATION", THE "MINI-TRIAL" AND USE OF A "DISPUTE RESOLUTION ADVISOR".

THE MEDIATION PROCESS REQUIRES NOTIFICATION BY ONE SIDE OF A DISPUTE OF AN AGREEMENT TO GO TO MEDIATION, THE APPOINTMENT OF A MUTUALLY AGREED NEUTRAL MEDIATOR WHO INVESTIGATES THE DISPUTE AND FINALLY ASSISTS THE TWO PARTIES TO REACH AN AGREEMENT.

THE WHOLE PROCEDURE IS CARRIED OUT TO A TIMETABLE SO THE DISPUTE IS RESOLVED WHILE WORK PROCEEDS REDUCING THE DANGER OF COST OVER-RUNS THROUGH CLAIMS FOR ADDITIONAL PAYMENT AFTER THE PROJECT COMPLETION, THUS HELPING BOTH THE EMPLOYER AND THE CONTRACTOR TO KEEP BETTER FINANCIAL CONTROL OF THE PROJECT.

MR CORSER EXPLAINED THAT "MINI-TRIAL" WAS THE SECOND FORM OF ADR WHEN BOTH SIDES OF DISPUTE PRESENTED THEIR CASE IN A "MOCK" COURTROOM TO A BOARD OF A NEUTRAL MEDIATOR AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH OF THE CONTESTANTS.

AFTER PRESENTING THEIR CASES, THE MEDIATOR, WHO WILL BE A PERSON WITH CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN THE INDUSTRY, ASSISTS AND ADVISES THE INDUSTRIES TO FIND A FAIR SOLUTION.

HE SAID IN A "MINI-TRIAL" RECENTLY ARRANGED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, PERHAPS ONE OF THE ONLY TWO IN HONG KONG, A DISAGREEMENT WITH A CONTRACTOR REGARDING WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADDITIONAL EXPENSE INCURRED DURING A PROJECT WAS FAIRLY RESOLVED.

"THE PROCEDURE WAS COMPLETED WITH THE TWO DIRECTORS SHAKING HANDS WHEN THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED," HE ADDED.

REGARDING THE USE OF A "DISPUTE RESOLUTION ADVISOR", MR CORSER SAID THE PROCESS AGAIN INVOLVED A NEUTRAL PARTY WHO WAS AN EXPERT IN CONSTRUCTION APPOINTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CONTRACT AND WAS AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME DURING THE PROJECT TO HELP RESOLVE DISPUTES.

HE ALSO HAS THE JOB OF FORESEEING POTENTIAL DISPUTES BEFORE THEY ARISE AND ADVISING HOW TO AVOID THEM. IF DISPUTES ARISE, THE DISCUSSION AND MEDIATION PROCESS PROCEEDS TO A FIXED TIMETABLE ENSURING DISPUTES ARE RESOLVED BEFORE THE END OF THE PROJECT.

MR CORSER SAID A SIMILAR SYSTEM HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN THE U.S. ON MAJOR ENGINEERING CONTRACTS FOR WHICH A SURVEY SHOWED ALMOST 100 PER CENT OF DISPUTES WERE RESOLVED WITHOUT ARBITRATION OR GOING TO THE COURTS.

MR CORSER NOTED THAT THE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS UNDER THE CONTROL OF HIS DEPARTMENT TO BE TENDERED OVER THE NEXT 18 MONTHS WOULD INCLUDE MAJOR REFURBISHMENT OF THE MAIN BLOCK OF QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, THE CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE MARKET AND THE WONG CHUK HANG COMPLEX FOR THE ELDERLY.

HE SAID THE METHOD OF "DISPUTE RESOLUTION ADVISOR" WOULD BE USED ON THE CONTRACT FOR THE REFURBISHMENT AND MODERNISATION OF THE OLD CENTRAL BLOCK OF QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL INCLUDING PROVISION OF AIR-CONDITIONING TO THE WARDS, WHICH WAS NOW BEING TENDERED.

AS PARTS OF THE HOSPITAL MUST REMAIN IN SERVICE WHILE THE WORK IS UNDERTAKEN, IT MUST BE DONE IN PHASES MAKING THE PROJECT VERY COMPLICATED.

MR CORSER ADDED THAT THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WOULD USE THE "MEDIATION" FORM FOR THE TSING MA BRIDGE PROJECT (LANTAU FIXED CROSSING) AND IT WAS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS OF THIS CONTRACT THAT "MEDIATION" BE ENTERED INTO SHOULD A DISPUTE ARISE.

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GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF FOUR LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

THE FIRST LOT IS LOCATED OFF HOI YU STREET, QUARRY BAY ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

IT HAS AN AREA ABOUT 892 SQUARE METRES AND IS EARMARKED FOR OPEN STORAGE (EXCLUDING CONTAINERS AND DANGEROUS GOODS), AND/OR WASTE PAPER COLLECTING AND SORTING, AND/OR OPEN PARKING OF VEHICLES (EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES AND TRAILERS).

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE SECOND LOT IS LOCATED IN AREA 47, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES.

MEASURING ABOUT 17,600 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS FOR GENERAL OPEN STORAGE OF GOODS AND CONTAINERS, INCLUDING LOADING, UNLOADING AND REPAIRING OF CONTAINERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE THIRD LOT IS LOCATED IN AREA 35, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 22,460 SQUARE METRES. THE SITE IS INTENDED FOR OPEN STORAGE OF THE TENANT'S NON-OFFENSIVE AND NON-DANGEROUS GOODS, INCLUDING STORAGE OF UNLICENSED VEHICLES BUT EXCLUDING STORAGE OF CONTAINERS AND LICENSED VEHICLES.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

THE REMAINING LOT, LOCATED IN AREA 25, TSUEN WAN, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 9,650 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS FOR A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK FOR THE PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES (INCLUDING GOODS VEHICLES BUT EXCLUDING CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS) CURRENTLY LICENSED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT FOR USE ON PUBLIC STREETS AND ROADS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 27.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE KOWLOON DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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BUILDING MANAGEMENT COURSE FOR OC AND MAC MEMBERS

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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S HOUSING COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A BUILDING MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE FOR MEMBERS OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS (OC'S) AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES (MACS) IN THE DISTRICT NEXT MONTH.

THE THREE-DAY COURSE AIMS TO ENHANCE OC AND MAC MEMBERS' KNOWLEDGE IN THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND TO HELP THEM IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR BUILDINGS.

THE COURSE WILL BE HELD AT 8 PM ON OCTOBER 10, 17 AND 24 IN THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE INTERESTED IN BUILDING MANAGEMENT ARE ALSO WELCOME TO ATTEND. A CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE WILL BE AWARDED TO PARTICIPANTS.

THE TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE PROCEDURES ON RECOVERY OF OUTSTANDING MANAGEMENT CHARGES, LEGISLATIONS RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT STAFF, CRIME PREVENTION AND FIRE PROTECTION IN MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS, ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, AND MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF BUILDINGS.

MEANWHILE, A SEMINAR ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 9 IN THE LOK WAH ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE. IT WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

ATTENDANCE AT THE TRAINING COURSE AND THE SEMINAR IS FREE. APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTER OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE. COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTER BEFORE SEPTEMBER 24.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 341 6315 EXT 28.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1991

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UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN NORTH POINT TO BE CLOSED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ON A BUILDING IN NORTH POINT SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED ON THE ROOF OVER FLAT F, ON THE 41ST FLOOR OF KO FUNG COURT, HARBOUR HEIGHTS, 5 FOOK YUM ROAD.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON OCTOBER 30 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DEMOLITION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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VIOLIN SOLI CONTEST TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER
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YOUNG VIOLIN PLAYERS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE FIRST HONG KONG VIOLIN SOLI CONTEST TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER.

THE CONTEST IS PART OF THE 1991 HONG KONG YOUTH STRING MUSIC FESTIVAL ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE BETWEEN NOVEMBER 10 AND 16.

IT AIMS TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN STRING MUSIC AMONG LOCAL YOUNG VIOLIN PLAYERS WHILE PROVIDING AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AMONG THE CONTESTANTS.

THE CONTEST IS OPEN TO VIOLIN PLAYERS AGED 14 AND BELOW. EACH TEAM SHOULD CONSIST OF AT LEAST FOUR MEMBERS WITH A MAXIMUM OF NO MORE THAN 12 MEMBERS.

CONTESTANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PERFORM TWO PIECES, INCLUDING A SET PIECE -- GEMINIANI'S "ALLEGRO FROM SONATA IN A SELECTED FROM SECOND VIOLIN, BOOK IV".

THEY MUST PLAY FROM MEMORY AND SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN PIANO ACCOMPANIST.

THE PRELIMINARY CONTEST IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT THE MONG KOK MUSIC CENTRE ON OCTOBER 27 WHILE THE FINAL WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL ON NOVEMBER 12.

THE CHAMPION, AND THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNNERS-UP WILL BE AWARDED TROPHIES AND CASH PRIZES OF \$2,500, \$2,000 AND \$1,500 RESPECTIVELY.

/THE CHAMPION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1991

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THE CHAMPION TEAM WILL BE INVITED TO PERFORM IN THE CHAMBER CONCERT OF THE 1991 HONG KONG YOUTH STRING MUSIC FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 15 AT THE DRAMA THEATRE OF THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS.

THE CONTEST IS SPONSORED BY THE HARMONY PIANO COMPANY. THE PANEL OF JUDGES WILL CONSIST OF FAMOUS LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MUSICIANS.

ENTRY FORMS FOR THE CONTEST ARE AVAILABLE ON THE NINTH FLOOR, HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES IS SEPTEMBER 30. FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 528 3257.

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265 VM'S RETURN TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 265 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 125 MEN, 63 WOMEN, 49 BOYS AND 28 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 66TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 3,284 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 9,580 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	10.9.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	11.9.91	-223
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+223
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		+80*
*O/N ASSISTANCE TO BE REVERSED ON 12.9.91		
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.5 **0.1* 11.9.91		

/HONG KONG

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1991

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

		11.9.91	10.9.91
MATURING IN	1 WEEK	4.67 PCT	4.82 PCT
	1 MONTH	4.78 PCT	4.81 PCT
	3 MONTHS	5.07 PCT	5.12 PCT
	6 MONTHS	5.58 PCT	5.49 PCT
	12 MONTHS	6.26 PCT	6.24 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED		6,922 MN	7,660 MN

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